

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

The Hart beat
As pants the Hart on the
heels of Mondale:
Christopher Thomas
reports from Florida
Because they're there
Adventure holidays
around the world

Power flower

The crowning glory of
orchids: Tony Samstag
on the flower of kings
Buy and bye
Beryl Downing on the
future of shopping
Cup and up
Stuart Jones and Clive
Whitehead look ahead to the
weekend's FA Cup
matches

Dimbleby to be blacked, says NUJ

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists said that only two of their members were prepared to defy their instruction to black out David Dimbleby's BBC television Budget programme, say earlier the union's chairmen [sic] at Lime Grove [sic] voted by 73 to 58 not to black the broadcaster, whose newspaper group is in dispute with NUJ members Page 2

Falkland denial

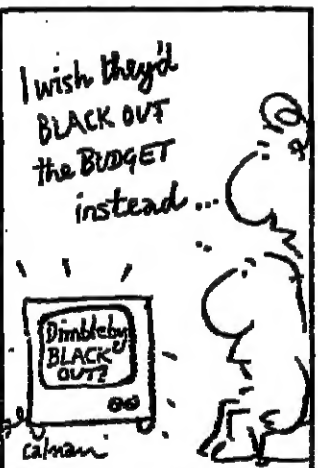
Mr Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, denied he had agreed to lead British a helicopter carrier if either British carrier in the Falklands conflict had been disabled.

Bank complains

Barclays Bank has filed a complaint to the Press Council over an article in *The Sunday Times* about a business account used by the Prime Minister's son Mr Mark Thatcher.

Belfast boost

Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, have won a £9m order from International Towing Management of Middlesbrough, to build six barges to service offshore rigs.



Aegean crisis

Greece recalled its ambassador from Ankara last night after five Turkish destroyers were reported to have fired shells towards the Greek destroyer, Panthor near the Dardanelles.

Killer on run

The police were searching last night for Richard, Countdown, aged 50, serving a life sentence for murder, who escaped from his escort after attending classes at Motherwell.

Howe for Israel

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Israel later this year. In January he made a five-day visit to the Arab world. Page 5

Close chairman

Brian Close has been elected the cricket committee chairman of Yorkshire, and Geoffrey Boycott is to serve on the general committee. Page 22

Home News	2-4	Motoring	25
Overseas	5-9	Parliament	4
Arts	14, 15	From Books	14
Business	16-21	Sale Items	2
Court	14	Science	14
Crossword	26	Sport	22-24
Diary	13	TV & Radio	27
Law Report	21	Weather	28

Miners' leaders will back all areas that strike

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Sheffield

Miners' leaders yesterday officially backed next week's strike in the Yorkshire and Scottish coalfields. They also took the unusual step of declaring support in advance for strike decisions in other areas of the National Union of Mineworkers which are holding key meetings during the next two days.

The first step aimed at pushing the miners towards a national confrontation over pit closures was agreed by the union executive meeting in Sheffield, which at the same time heard the improved redundancy terms announced less than 24 hours earlier by the Government to persuade younger miners to leave the industry.

The terms being introduced at the end of the month guarantee £1,000 for every year of service to miners aged between 21 and 50 who agree to take voluntary severance, which in some cases amounts to a threefold increase on the present arrangements.

The first of the area meetings is in Cardiff today. Delegates from the militant South Wales colliery will decide whether to strike with their colleagues from Yorkshire and Scotland next week.

Mr Emyln Williams, the union's South Wales president, proposed the move at yesterday's executive meeting to support the northern strikes, and this may be a pointer to the possible outcome of the Cardiff meeting.

The moderate Lancashire and Nottinghamshire areas meet tomorrow but Yorkshire

members said last night that if miners in neighbouring Nottinghamshire did not join the strike they would send pickets to close the collieries.

Mr Ray Chubb, the union's Nottinghamshire president, who has said his members will be instructed not to cross picket lines, had a rough reception from about 200 miners lobbying yesterday's meeting and shouting "Scab".

Mr Michael McGee, the Scottish miners' president, said after the six-hour meeting: "I think it is a situation that will escalate".

The executive backed the Yorkshire and Scottish strikes after a right-wing attempt to commit the union to a ballot of its 180,000 members with a recommendation for a national strike was heavily defeated.

Only Mr Trevor Bell, general secretary of the union's white-collar section, who proposed the move designed to outflank the militants, Mr Ted McKay, of North Wales, and Mr Roy Ousey, of the Midlands power group, voted for the ballot.

The decision to support area strikes was taken under the rule allowing the executive to back strike decisions by area councils.

Militants hope that with the official backing there will be a "domino" effect and other areas will go for stoppages. The tactics also avoid having to call a national ballot in which the executive would need a 55 per cent vote for a national strike.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, said the executive took its decision in

response to the "belligerent" attitude of the National Coal Board and its chairman Mr Ian MacGregor, who on Tuesday announced a four-million-tonne cut in production next year threatening the future of 20 pits and 20,000 jobs.

A statement by the executive said: "No area is safe and none will escape from the MacGregor Plan". Areas such as Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire, the Midlands, as well as coke works, workshops, transport departments and the offices of clerical staff will all be affected.

The redundancy plan laid before the House of Commons in a Parliamentary Order on Wednesday is bound to prove attractive to younger miners who until now have been offered a severance scheme much inferior to the early retirement payments available to older miners.

Many miners in yesterday's lobby - from the 14 south Yorkshire pits which have been on strike all this week - said the scheme would encourage many more men to leave.

A miner aged 39, with 19 years' service, would get a lump sum payment of £19,000, compared with a £7,467 payment under the present scheme.

A miner aged 25, with at least five years' service, would expect less than £500 but under the new scheme would get £5,000.

Mr Scargill urged members not to be tempted by higher payments, which he described as selling "the job prospects of their sons and daughters".

14% rise in prescription charges

By Nicholas Timmins

Steep increases well above the rate of inflation in National Health Service charges for prescriptions, spectacles and dental treatment were announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Charges for private patients using health service pay beds are also to rise, but in general by smaller percentages, with the cost of private beds in most postgraduate hospitals in London, which set the benchmark for what private hospitals in London can charge, actually dropping by 20p to £167 a day.

The changes, all from April 1, mean an increase of 20p, more than 14 per cent, in prescription charges to £1.60, an eight-fold increase since the Conservatives came to office. Four-month and 12-month "season tickets" for prescription charges rise by similar percentages from £7.50 to £8.50, and from £21 to £24 respectively.

The maximum charge for routine dental treatment rises by 7.4 per cent, up £1 to £14, but the maximum charge for

Iraqi attack raises fear for Gulf ships

By Colin Hughes

Mr Richard Lacey, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday protested to the Iraqi Ambassador in London over an Iraqi aircraft's missile attack on the British ship *Charming*, in the Gulf.

In the House of Commons the Prime Minister rejected a call from the Social Democratic Party leader, Dr David Owen, for a United Nations maritime peacekeeping force to be sent to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told him it would be "extremely difficult, if not impossible, to send a force of British ships to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war."

The Government was reacting to the attack on the 19,200-ton cargo vessel, *Charming*, owned by Prince Shipping of Guernsey, which is now lying abandoned in the Khor Musa waterway leading to the Iranian bulk-cargo port of Bandar Khomeini. The 14 crew have left Iran having suffered no serious injury.

The Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers Association yesterday

asked the National Maritime Board to send a force of 10 British ships to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war. The board, which is a joint body of the British and foreign shipping associations, said it would be "extremely difficult, if not impossible, to send a force of British ships to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war."

The General Council of British Shipping said they would consider the claim, but emphasized that the *Charming* was not a British ship. No US ships had ventured up to Bandar Khomeini since last autumn, and none had visited Iran's main oil terminal in the war risk zone, at Kharg Island, since early this year.

There are 11 British ships further south in the Gulf, and the General Council said it was "closely monitoring the situation" to ensure they were not in danger.

Yesterday the Iran Insurance Company reacted to a decision by London brokers, to double premiums for Gulf vessels to 1.5 per cent, by offering a 1 per cent premium.

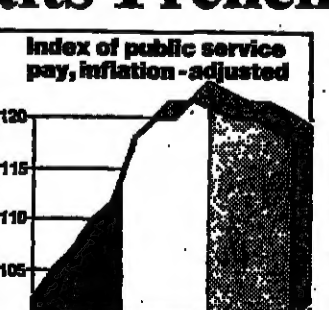
Tormented Iraqis, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Strike halts French services

From Diana Geddes Paris

Hundreds of thousands of French workers in the public services sector went on strike throughout the country yesterday in the biggest single display of union discontent since the Socialists came to power in May 1981.

The strikes were called by the three unions representing a majority of the five million civil servants, local government workers, teachers, and workers in other public services, in protest against the Government's alleged failure to keep its promise to keep wages in line with inflation.



The unions claim that the purchasing power of public sector wages has been cut by between 1 and 4 per cent over the past two years. The

Government insists that its latest offer, rejected by the unions on February 29, of an extra 1 per cent increase from April 1, plus a 500 franc (£42) bonus, fully makes up for the loss suffered.

The Socialist CFDT union, which has been highly critical of the Government over the past few months, supported the Government and broke the unity of the union protest yesterday by refusing to have anything to do with the strikes or demonstrations, though some rank and file members were seen among the 15,000 or so workers who marched through the streets of Paris.

Continued on back page, col 6

Art of letter-writing flourishes against all the odds

By Alan Hamilton

Despite the explosion of electronic communication, declining standards of literacy and the difficulty of buying a stamp on Sunday the British have not entirely lost the art of writing letters to each other, according to a survey published yesterday by the fibre-tip pen and pink writing paper trade.

Research by the Letter Writing Bureau, a front organisation of the stationery industry which has the backing of the Post Office, indicates that in 1983 we sent each other 679 million personal letters, an increase of 37 million on the previous year. The figure excludes all greetings cards, business letters, bank statements, junk mail and financial demands from the Inland Revenue.

But there is no concealing the fact that, compared with

previous decades, personal letter-writing has tended to go the way of tramcars and the wind-up gramophone. The golden age of written communication between individuals was the 1940s and 1950s: in 1950 the Post Office handled 8,500 million letters and estimates that half of them were personal, sent from one private address to another.

We are barely even back to the levels of 1900, when the Post Office delivered 2,323 million letters, which by its rough rule of thumb would indicate that about 1,100 million of them were items of congratulation, condolence or mere conversation between individuals.

The survey largely confirms the expectation that the letter is a better vehicle for self-expression than the telephone, that the telephone has lost its novelty and relative cheapness,

that women write more than twice as many letters as men and that the most ardent writers are the over 65s, who pen 45 missives a year compared with the national average per author of 37.

Among the less expected findings of the survey is that the second most prolific age group are the 16 to 24s, who write an average of 36 letters a year each.

As their principal category of communication is the love letter, and as they follow the overall trend of many more female than male authors, it must be concluded that many an expression of undying affection remains disappointingly unexpressed. Or else the youthful Romeo prefers to express his feelings down the relative anonymity of the telephone.

The survey also found that

of all age groups lived in the south-west of England and in Scotland. The north-easterners and the Welsh are the least prolific.

Details were compiled from the Post Office's own statistics, together with the replies to 75,000 questionnaires.

Among the reasons given for a continued faith in letter-writing were that they were more costly than telephone calls, callers thought of their best witticisms just after they had put the telephone down, sending a letter brought the equally pleasurable anticipation of a reply, letters could be kept and re-read many times and a letter showed more appreciation and effort than a telephone call.

Letters were also seen as a way of maintaining friendships. "If I left the letter-writing to my husband we wouldn't have any friends left", one woman told the researchers. "We still

got some from my husband when we were courting and that's 11 years ago", another said.

Perhaps significantly, 60 per cent of all personal letters are sent by first-class post, which is well above the average for all mail. But the personal letter - which is defined by the Post Office as an item sent from one private address to another which is not a greetings card - still accounts for only seven in every 100 letters delivered; thus preserving a certain rarity value among the advertising circulars and rule booklets.

What the survey does not show is what the letters say. Gone are the days of yachting, of separated families, assuring each other that they are still alive and well. But we still appear to retain sufficient power of self-expression to ensure that the letter, if not the letter, is still a letter.

EEC delay worries Thatcher

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday urged Britain's partners in the European Community to reach agreement on fundamental reforms before the elections to the European Parliament in June.

But she told Conservative MEPs meeting in private in London, that if the Community's problems were not solved at the Brussels summit on March 19 and 20 they would just have to be solved later.

Her speech reflected the growing belief in London that unless the main lines of a settlement are agreed now, the final agreement will be delayed until June, when all hopes of reforms may be lost.

The fear is that domestic pressure within member states, particularly West Germany and France, during the intervening election campaign may tend to increase the differences which President Mitterrand has been working diligently to reduce.

MPs reject complaint over Oman

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests last night decided to reject a complaint that the Prime Minister should have declared her son's alleged interest in the £300m contract to build a university in Oman.

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, had submitted that Mr Mark Thatcher's alleged interest in the Cementation contract should have been disclosed in the Commons Register of Members' Interests.

The all-party select committee, which has an inbuilt Conservative majority, rejected the submission, without a vote.

Verbatim minutes of the proceedings will not be published but it is also understood that Mr Sedgemore will be formally given a warning that if he publishes his memorandum, he will not be covered by parliamentary privilege.

Mr Sedgemore, a non-practising barrister, had told the committee that he felt free to publish in the light of the Speaker's ruling which implied that such action would not be a contempt of the House.

Backing for Bill to bar criminal jurors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is backing a private member's Bill which for the first time will disqualify from jury service anyone who has served a custodial or suspended sentence, who has been put on probation or has been placed under a community service order.

The measure is expected to double the number of people disqualified from sitting as jurors from the present 250,000 to 500,000.

The Bill, the latest of several attempts to tighten jury eligibility, is aimed at ensuring convicted criminals do not sit on juries in the wake of what has been called an "epidemic of jury tampering".

At present, anyone imprisoned for more than three months and up to five years is disqualified for ten years and anyone imprisoned for over five years is disqualified for life.

The most recent attempts to change the law because of concern about the extent of "padding" was made by Lord Harris of Greenwich and Lord Wigoder whose Bill completed its passage in the Lords but was not given time in the Commons.

That would have disqualified adults convicted of two or more indictable offences. A second measure, a private member's Bill backed by six Conservative MPs, was aimed at disqualifying anyone convicted of any offence punishable with imprisonment. The latest measure is considered a middle way.

The practice of approaching jurors to secure a particular verdict, reached a head at the Central Criminal Court, where by the end of 1982 some 13 trials had been halted.

Mr John Watson, Sponsor of new measure.

Report puts boxing on the ropes

Professional boxing came under fire in a British Medical Association report issued in London yesterday which found that brain damage was common in boxers and could even be produced by a single blow.

The BMA regretted that the British Boxing Board of Control did not assist in the inquiry. The report will be considered at the annual representative meeting in Manchester in July, which is likely to reaffirm the 1982 decision to campaign for boxing's abolition.

The report suggests that boxers sign a consent form, similar to the one given to patients in hospital before an operation, spelling out the risks.

BMA campaign, page 3
Leading article, page 13
Sport, page 24

Spending paper short of target

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

The Government's long-awaited Green Paper on public spending over the coming decade, to be published with the Budget next Tuesday, looks increasingly unlikely to stimulate the informed debate Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, says he desires.

Only the Treasury's pledge to include nothing remotely controversial persuaded the Prime Minister to agree to publication. As a result, the Green Paper contains no numbers for spending and revenues for the period beyond 1989 and no discussion of alternatives to maintaining, in broad terms, existing levels of services.

Mr Lawson will be hoping that his radical, tax-reforming Budget will distract attention from the thinness of the document.

There is also some embarrassment in the Treasury that the new projections do not bear out its warnings 18 months ago that, without savage cuts in spending, taxes might have to rise by as much as £15 billion.

Instead, the paper makes it clear that if public spending rises no faster than prices, and the economy grows at a modest pace, there is scope for taxes to come down.

Its projections for the next five years assume that the economy will expand by 2.25 per cent a year.

Leading article, page 13

For those who want more than just decaffeinated coffee.

The taste of Gold Blend, too.

Nescafe Gold Blend decaffeinated

NESTLE'S GOLD BLEND decaffeinated

NESTLE'S and Gold Blend are registered trade marks to designate Nestle's instant coffees.

سكس من الشرح

NUJ says only two TV members will defy 'black Dimbleby' order

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists said last night that only two of their members were prepared to defy their instruction to black Mr David Dimbleby's BBC Television Budget programme.

The NUJ leadership issued letters to editorial staff at the time Grove studios, ordering them not to work with Mr Dimbleby.

The move came a day after the chapel [office branch] at the studios voted by 73 to 58 not to black the broadcaster, whose newspaper group is in dispute with NUJ members.

An impromptu meeting yesterday of most of the 25 NUJ members working on the Budget programme decided to tell their editor that they would obey the union instruction.

A BBC spokesman said last night that the corporation was still planning "at the moment" to put out its Budget special next Tuesday with Mr Dimbleby as presenter. But with the need to draft in non-NUJ personnel at the last minute, union sources said that the

quality of the programme would inevitably suffer. Mr Dimbleby is chairman of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* series of newspapers which is in dispute with the NUJ because printing work was transferred to TBF Printers, a company associated with T. Bailey Forman which has a long-standing conflict with the journalists' union.

An injunction was won by Mr Dimbleby ordering the NUJ executive to stop giving its blessing to the newspaper dispute.

A meeting of the television division of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, which represents technicians, yesterday voted to support the blacking of Mr Dimbleby, but stopped short of deciding to take action itself.

If the ABS stop work NUJ sources believe that it would be "extremely difficult" for the Budget programme to go out.

It is understood that ABS leaders were reluctant to instruct their members to take action before they knew the response of NUJ members.

Mr Bill Keys, leader of the printing union Sogat 82, is to seek urgent talks with the International Thomson Organisation, owners of the Withy Grove printing works in Manchester, and with the management of national newspapers whose northern editions are printed there, after a statement from Thomson that it is ending all its main printing contracts by the end of 1985 (Graham Seargent writes).

Thomson Withy Grove, which employs about 1,800 people directly, was once claimed to be the biggest newspaper printing centre in the world.

It has lost nearly £6m in the past eight years and Thomson has been reviewing its future since it ceased publishing its own *Sporting Chronicle* last July, increasing the overheads to be carried on remaining work.

Thomson wants to sell Withy Grove to its main customers, Mirror Group Newspapers, the Daily Telegraph and News International.

Letters, page 13

Protest at selling of pines

By Ronald Faux

There was angry reaction in Scotland yesterday from conservation organizations to the clear felling of 100 acres of ancient pine forest at Abernethy, on Speyside.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the forest area, one of the finest relics of Caledonian pine forest which once covered 6,000 square miles of the Highlands, had been destroyed. The "dwindling fragment" remaining was a home for rare birds, including the osprey, Scottish crossbill, and crested tit.

It said that an internationally important wildlife centre had been lost without any consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council, which had classed the site as one of special scientific interest.

The felling was carried out by the Seaford Estate, owners of the woodland, with agreement from the Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Commission said: "Far from destroying the woodland this has ensured the survival of the pine trees... Without sensitive management the forest would over-mature and decay."

The commission said there was no obligation on the owner of the woodland to consult anyone other than the Forestry Commission under the dedication scheme.

Plan to protect Norfolk

A proposal advocating a new statutory authority for the Norfolk Broads, with powers to control development and combat pollution, is being recommended by the Countryside Commission in a report published today.

The commission does not feel that the creation of a new national park would be a suitable solution to the problems of the Broads, which are far more industrialized than any of the existing 10 parks.

£400,000 award

Mr Keith Hampshire, aged 28, a former police constable, of Headingley, Leeds, was awarded £400,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for brain damage suffered in an accident when he was thrown from his police motor cycle.

£54,000 raid

The *Observer* newspaper was robbed of £54,000 yesterday by two men who forced Mr Brian Norry, to open the wages safe. They had earlier held him prisoner at his south London home for 12 hours.

More evidence of GCHQ disruption

By Peter Hennessy

The first industrial action to disrupt operations at the Government Communications Headquarters took place in 1969, 10 years before the earliest incident cited by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in the Commons.

About fifteen years earlier the idea of deunionizing GCHQ and its outstations had been raised by senior managers but it was rejected.

Among other fragments of the hidden history of GCHQ industrial relations, it is now emerging that Civil Service unions achieved a foothold in the organization only during the late 1940s when Mr Ernest Bevin was Foreign Secretary.

Before that, radio operators were permitted to belong to the Civil Service Union but their national officers were banned from GCHQ premises which were then located at Eastcote in the north-west suburbs of London.

The 1969 disruption affected not just Cheltenham headquarters but also monitoring stations in Cyprus, Hongkong and Singapore. It arose from a pay dispute involving radio operators who were claiming parity with executive officers.

It broke out over the August bank holiday weekend and took

the form of a work-to-rule. The dispute was resolved at the highest levels of government within a few days.

There was a further work-to-rule by communications staff at Cheltenham in the early 1970s in furtherance of a pay claim. Both that and the 1969 dispute did affect operations but they were not comparable in seriousness and extent to the stoppages of 1979-81.

Even after national union officials were recognized at GCHQ in the late 1940s, a separate staff-management Whitley Committee continued to function at Cheltenham for discussion of the most sensitive matters.

Membership was confined to those who had been "indoctrinated" into the true nature of GCHQ.

The High Court gave approval yesterday for nine Civil Service unions to challenge the government ban on union membership at GCHQ.

The Louis Blom-Cooper, for the unions, said: "Membership of a trade union has always been a right of employees without any discrimination at all. Therefore Crown servants equally have the right to membership of a trade union."



Productivity ridden by Pat Eddery

Irish luck on £5,000 horse

A group of Irish farmers and night telephone operators have made a profit of 295,000 Irish pounds on a horse called Productivity.

They paid £25,000 for the yearling at the Goffs sales in Co Kildare 18 months ago.

Then John Oxx took on the Nishapur colt and trained him. The colt finished a close second under Pat Eddery in the

Tyros stakes at the Curragh on Irish Derby Day last year, his only race.

That performance attracted international interest and led to the £300,000 sale to an unnamed British consortium. If Productivity was a big race for the new owners, the syndicate of 10 amateurs from Athlone, Co Westmeath will receive another £100,000 as part of the agreement.

Sale room

Boom time again for collectors

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

£2,000 to £3,000 for one decorated with a faithful copy of a Dutch interior by Caspar Netscher, the painting from which the decoration was copied dates from 1666 and hangs now in the Dresden gallery.

Nineteenth-century Meissen was also reaching prices usually reserved for eighteenth-century pieces. A composite set of 24 monkey bandmen sold for £3,090 (estimate £500 to £700). The porcelain made £108,790 with per cent unsold.

Sale of nineteenth-century bronze and marbles made £164,274 with 20 per cent left unsold. Collectors are still frightened of the fakes that started to infiltrate the market about 10 years ago and only bid confidently on the best pieces.

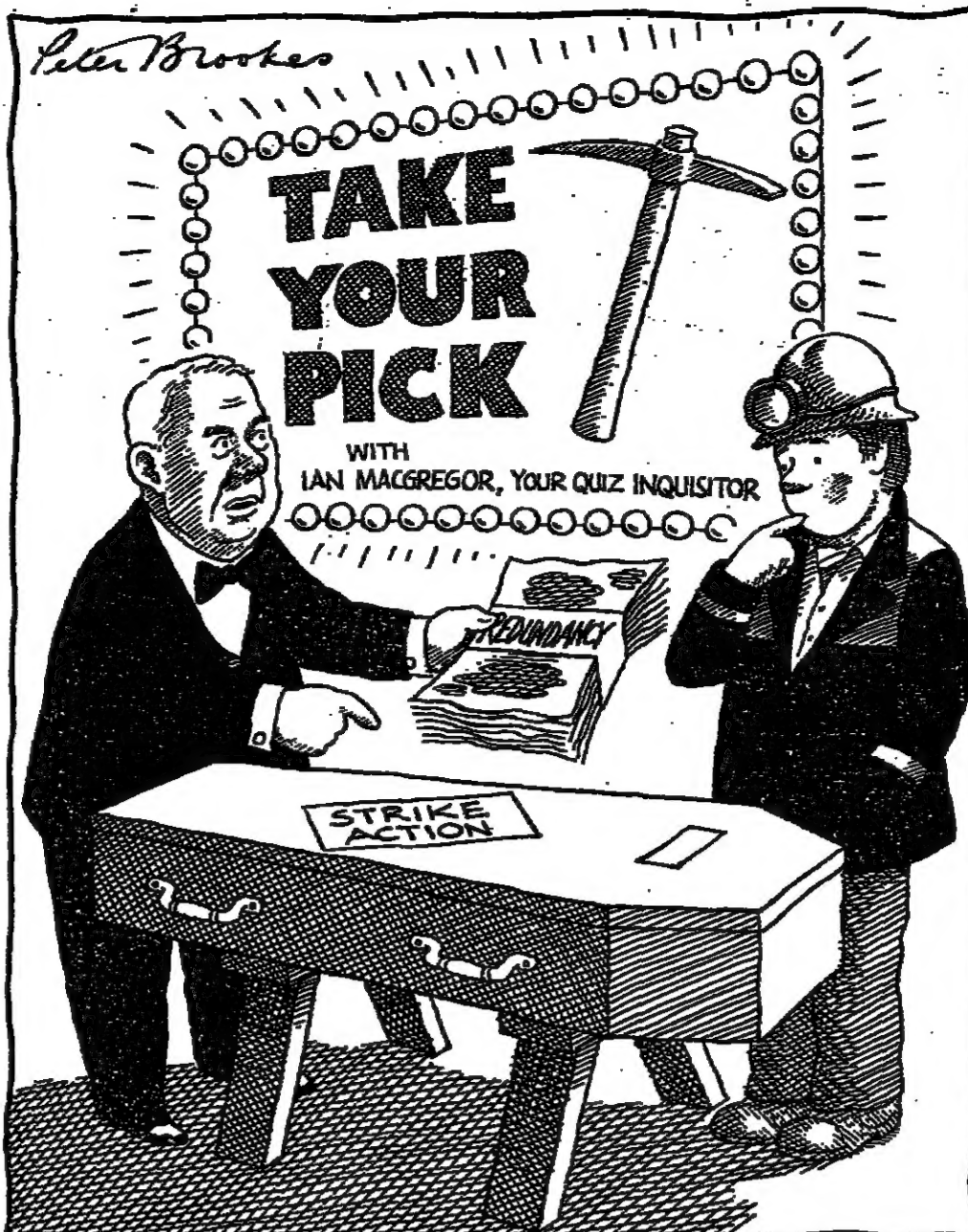
Crest Humble paid £11,000 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) for a white marble bust of Alexander von Humboldt by Christian Rauch, dating from about 1851. Christie's sale of clocks and watches also recorded boom

prices. Two elaborately ornamental gilt metal clocks made in the late eighteenth-century for the Chinese market sold for £27,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) and £15,120 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000). They had been offered by Christie's in Geneva last November and bought in.

A late nineteenth-century porcelain mounted carriage clock secured £2,052 (estimate £1,000 to £1,200) and a late Stuart ebony clock bracket clock made £3,780.

A general sale of stamps and postal history at Sotheby's on Wednesday realized the hammer price of £535,526 (our Stamp Correspondent writes).

A remarkable single cover posted at New Orleans in August, 1861, which passed through the opposing lines in the American Civil War to travel via New York and London to the addressee in Paris, made £11,500 (estimate up to £5,000).



"Will you take the money or open the box?"

£31m budget for war exercise

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence is to spend £31m in September on its biggest exercise of British armed forces on the Continent.

The exercise, codenamed Lionheart 84, will involve nearly 130,000 British servicemen, almost half of whom will be specially transported across the Channel to West Germany.

Of the 57,700 servicemen crossing to the Continent, 35,000 men will go by air, but the exercise will also involve 82 sailings from Folkestone and Dover.

These will be in the first half of September when tourist traffic will still be heavy. However, a spokesman said the Army was taking great care to ensure that the mobilization did not affect civilian traffic.

Every four years Britain organizes a large exercise to practise the reinforcement of the British Army of the Rhine under conditions assuming tension that leads to war.

The last such exercise, in 1980, involved mobilizing 20,000 Territorial Army members and also transporting to West Germany 17,000 regular soldiers based in Britain.

Although the number of regulars going to West Germany this year is the same as in 1980, the number of Territorial Army members will rise to 35,000, and 4,500 reservists will also be involved.

At about the same time other NATO nations will hold important exercises on the Continent, and altogether about 250,000 troops will be involved.

The RAF will have about 200 aircraft in the exercise, and will also take part in the other NATO exercises.

Special trains and road convoys will get the troops to the ports and bring them back at the beginning of October.

Most of the mobilization is assured to take place before the actual outbreak of hostilities, so the planning takes no account of the danger that the Channel would be heavily mined in actual war.

As usual in such exercises, the scenario assumes a defensive posture followed by a counter-attack by the reinforced 1 British Corps in Germany. The hostile forces will be represented by West German, Dutch and American forces, and by the British 5 Airborne Brigade.

The ministry has set aside £8m of the £31m allocated for the exercise, as compensation for damage.

The amount of damage will depend largely on the weather. Tanks moving over dry ground cause much less damage than over waterlogged ground, and the exercise is being held in September as the weather is likely to be dry.

In 1980 damage cost about £3.5m out of an overall £15m budget.

New use for radioactive waste

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Valuable commodities could be extracted from the radioactive waste from nuclear power stations. The reclamation would call for a change in methods of extracting high level radioactive wastes in the reprocessing of spent uranium fuel, but it would ease some of the difficulties of the final disposal of material, according to a report published yesterday by the Watt Committee on Energy.

The proposal for recovering materials of potential industrial use was made by Professor G. N. Walton, who was a member of a group of distinguished academic industrialists and businessmen which produced a review that is intended to stand between the committed supporters and opponents of nuclear energy. His proposal is contained in a section on the disposal of radioactive waste and its impact on the environment.

The scheme would apply to the handling of the liquid streams of high level long-lived waste that are now stored in stainless steel tanks at Sellafield in Cumbria. Britain has accumulated about 900 cubic metres in the past 25 years of highly active liquid waste. The intention is to turn it into glass blocks for ultimate disposal.

The aim would be to separate many of the elements that are now discarded in bulk. In the unseparated form, radioactive elements that will need isolating from the environment for as long as thousands of years are mingled with short-lived ones which will have decayed into stable products in a few years.

The substances in the high level waste mixture include valuable metals such as palladium, rhodium, ruthenium and technetium.

Professor Walton suggested separation after storage for about 30 years in their mixed condition. Each element would then be kept in its chemical form, that had the lowest reaction energy, and would therefore be unable to react for thermodynamic reasons with their surroundings. Minerals remain in the earth unaltered for these same reasons.

Some of the elements that have been broken into a local petrol station and stolen £25, but their behaviour was "much milder than we would have expected them to get up to here in Britain", Mr Walsh said.

The course, run by Danish Small Schools, costs Camden

Labour MPs to campaign more in marginals

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Labour MPs are expected to spend less time at Westminster and more campaigning in the country because of the Government's huge Commons majority.

With no hope of defeating the Government on any main policy issues, it has been put to Labour MPs that their time would be better spent working in the marginal constituencies which the party must win if it is to be returned to power.

The suggestion has been aired in a confidential consultation memorandum sent to MPs this week by a parliamentary Labour Party committee, set up to improve the effectiveness of MPs.

The committee, chaired by Mr Ian Mikardo, the former party chairman, advances the proposition that a day's work by a member in a marginal constituency "contributes much

more towards our objective than sitting in a couple of committee meetings here or reducing the government majority in a ten o'clock division from 143 to 142".

A register is being compiled of MPs who would be prepared to spend time working in seats other than their own.

There are large areas of the country where Labour has no MPs. The register would be used to plan the most productive use of the available manpower.

Yet to achieve what the memorandum describes as the Herculean task of winning a majority at the next election, Labour would have to hold all its present seats and almost all those in which it came second last time.

MPs have a key part in the campaigning strategy, it states,

More may go to island school

By Colin Hughes

Camden Council in north London is considering sending more delinquent youths to a Danish-run rehabilitation academy in the Caribbean, after a visit by two social workers to investigate claims that Camden children were being allowed to steal, fight, take drugs and sleep with tutors.

Mr Joe Walsh, Camden's social services group head, and Mrs Vicki Jung, a social worker, said at a press conference yesterday after returning from a one-week, £2,900 trip to the Richmond Vale Academy in St Vincent, that the four Camden boys on the course had "wildly exaggerated" their exploits in the hope of being brought home.

Mr Walsh said that the boys, who are with 11 others from Lewisham, one from Hounslow and another from Westminster, had "spelt their own case by going too far".

Some marijuana had been smoked and one Camden boy had broken into a local petrol station and stolen £25, but their behaviour was "much milder than we would have expected them to get up to here in Britain", Mr Walsh said.

The course, run by Danish Small Schools, costs Camden



Miss Vicki Jung and Mr Joe Walsh at a press conference in Camden yesterday.

£300 a week a child, against £425 a week in a Camden home or up to £1,000 a week for secure accommodation in Britain.

Mr Alan Woods, Camden's social services chairman, said: "These are kids with whom all else has failed. We may now consider sending others who have not yet reached the end of the line."

Mr Walsh said that the Danish cooperative was now planning to open a British centre, to be called the Future of Britain, to add to its existing schools in Denmark, Norway and St Vincent.

The Camden boys will return home next month after a year on the course, to decide if they

Council campaigner quits post to fight cuts in own area

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Sir Jack Smart, the Labour leader of Wakefield City Council, is to resign early as chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents all the large Labour-led councils that face abolition.

Sir Jack, who is 63, leaves on March 31 instead of in June. He is the focus of a bitter dispute about cutting services in Wakefield, and his resignation highlights the strains caused in the Labour party by government policy towards local councils.

He told the association's policy committee yesterday that after seven years as leader of the association's Labour group, "someone with a fresh outlook should lead them" into the battles which lie ahead.

Sir Jack, a former National Union of Mineworkers official, said he wanted to devote more time to ensuring that the people of Wakefield knew the Government was to blame for the devastation of services in Wakefield and the substantial rate increase they will face in the coming financial year.

But he said nothing about the dispute which has caused a split in his local Labour group. It centres on two nurseries in Wakefield which have been occupied by protesters since December when the city council announced that they were to be closed.

The council's policy of broad compliance with government spending demands aroused widespread opposition from the local trade union movement. Some opposition came from the National Union of Public Employees. Mr George Mudie, an official of the union and Labour leader of Leeds City Council, was tipped yesterday, as Sir Jack's successor at the association.

Sir Jack said he accepted the advice given by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the

Opposition, at the local government conference of the Labour Party last month, that controlling groups of Labour councillors should stay in office and combat government policy legally.

Labour endorses rebels

Dr John Cunningham, the Labour Party's environment spokesman, yesterday threw his weight behind the six city councillors who have publicly broken with the majority on Liverpool City Council (Our Social Policy Correspondent writes).

Endorsing their rejection of the budget plans advanced by Mr Derek Hatton, the Militant-inclined deputy leader, Dr Cunningham announced there were "options" to allow a "sensible way forward".

Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, released the text of a letter to Sir Trevor Jones, the Liverpool Liberal leader. In it he held both the Liberals and Conservatives responsible for the Liverpool financial crisis but avoided supporting the stand taken by Mr Hatton.

Mr Kinnock appears to have persuaded Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) from becoming involved with the Liverpool issue. The subject was not raised at the last meeting and the next meeting is not until the end of the month.

Meanwhile, NEC members who might have spoken out on Liverpool, such as Mr David Blunkett, the left-wing leader of Sheffield City Council, have kept quiet.

Dr Cunningham has invited Mr Hatton and the former leader of the council, Mr John Hamilton, to London next Tuesday to discuss the city's budgetary problems. It is understood he will suggest ways of reducing outlays without cutting services.

Speed vital to save shipyard

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

The two new partners in the Scott Lithgow takeover yesterday called for sacrifices and speed from Britoil, British Shipbuilders and the Government to secure a future for the Lower Clyde shipyard.

Mr Albert Granville, chairman and managing director of Howard Doris, and Mr John Fletcher, managing director of the structural and offshore division of Trafalgar House, said in Glasgow that the key to a successful deal was the ability of Scott Lithgow, under their management, to finish the stranded £86m Britoil rig contract.

The two former rivals for the yard were deep in negotiation with Britoil, but Mr Granville said that if an agreement was not signed by the end of next week there would be doubts that it ever would be signed.

Mr Fletcher said: "Trafalgar House and Howard Doris came together because they saw it was essential that the situation was resolved quickly. It is important that other parties respond in the same way."

Mr Granville added: "It would be a tragedy if private industry had shown what could be done, as we have shown, and others did not show the same sense of urgency."

Both companies had made sacrifices, but if they had gone on competing with one another negotiations could have continued for several weeks and the result would have been no Scott Lithgow, he said.

Forces ban 'aimed at CND'

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament yesterday criticized changes in the Queen's Regulations, which govern the activities of servicemen, as the latest attempt by the Government to halt the growth of the anti-nuclear movement.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, chairman of CND, said she believed the changes could be interpreted as an attempt to deny servicemen access to information.

The new regulations have been approved by ministers and will come into effect in about two months. Among other things, they say: "Regular service personnel are not to take an active part in the affairs of any political organisation, party or movement. They are not to participate in political marches or demonstrations."

There have always been restrictions on the political activities of servicemen, but the key change in the regulation is to extend the limitation to "movements" as well as political organizations or parties.

The revised regulations will conform the rights of servicemen to attend political meetings, but will now require them not to do so in uniform.

Which sources emphasized that the changes had no bearing on the rights of servicemen to vote in elections.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the Queen's Regulations were revised from time to time in the light of the needs of the services. On this occasion, the opportunity had been taken to clarify the detail of the regulations for the benefit of commanding officers, some of whom had asked for clarification. It was essential that service personnel should be seen to be politically neutral.

Nine Greenham peace women were held in custody in London last night after being arrested with 10 others at a demonstration in Piccadilly that was one of several events to mark International Women's Day (Pat Healy writes). The 10 other women were all held to appear before Clerkenwell magistrates on March 27.

The nine women held in police cells overnight had all given the women's peace camp at Greenham Common, Berkshire, as their address. They were due to appear before Clerkenwell magistrates this morning. The arrests arose out of a demonstration by about 150 Greenham women protesting against an American-sponsored conference on missile technology.

Three peace women, Elizabeth Galt, aged 21, Sue Hogwood, aged 19, and Rebecca Johnson, aged 29, were sent for trial yesterday before Reading Crown Court on a charge of breaking into the air traffic control tower at the Greenham Common airbase last December. They appeared before Newbury magistrates.

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مكتبات الأمل

BMA repeats warning on boxing perils in new drive to ban the sport

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

There is evidence "beyond doubt" that brain damage commonly occurs in amateur and professional boxers, a report from the British Medical Association's board of science concluded yesterday.

Even one punch can cause permanent damage to the brain, which has little or no ability to repair itself.

Headguards may protect against cuts and eye injuries but they are little use in preventing brain damage, which happens when the jolty-like substance of the brain is shaken around inside the skull, and many blows that do not cause knockouts can do the damage, the report says.

New X-ray scanning techniques have "serious implications" for boxing, the report says.

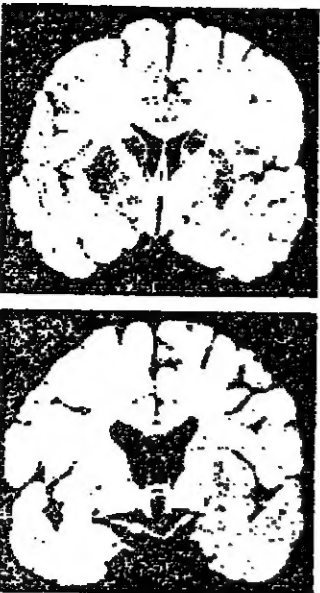
They show that the damage associated with the "punch-drunk" syndrome is now detectable before the clinical signs - slurred speech, staggering movements, poor coordination and memory loss.

"Brain damage is a likely consequence of boxing, whether in amateur or professional fighting," the report concludes.

The report is likely to inspire a campaign by the association this year to have professional boxing banned or at least to alter radically the rules covering amateur and professional boxing.

The report was commissioned to see if there was evidence to support the association's call at its 1982 annual meeting for a campaign to abolish professional boxing.

The report makes no recommendations but it suggests



Exhibits in evidence: The top photograph is of a normal brain, contrasted with a photograph (above) of a boxer's severely damaged brain

that boxers might be required to sign a consent form detailing the risks of acute brain damage. "Only then could it be truly said that boxers were choosing to continue to fight in the full understanding of the risks that they were running", it says.

It also suggests that a thumbless glove might reduce eye injuries.

The association will decide at its annual meeting in July how it will campaign.

Dr John Havard, the association's secretary and heavy-weight boxing champion at his school, said the Government, which had resisted making the wearing of seatbelts compulsory

but eventually introduced legislation, would "see the light" if the association decided to campaign on boxing.

The report, prepared by seven doctors including specialists in neurology, received evidence from the Amateur Boxing Association, the services, police and individuals, but not from the British Boxing Board of Control, which refused to cooperate.

The report says its chief medical officer, Dr Adrian Whitson, agreed informally to give evidence but that the board then refused to cooperate.

Mr Ray Clarke, secretary of the board which controls professional boxing, said it refused because the association, would first not rescind the motion calling for abolition.

"They were inviting us to join a campaign to kill our own sport," he said.

He said the board would consider responding after a meeting next week but he accepted that boxing caused brain damage, just as other sports are dangerous.

The association's report says the outstanding feature of the brains of dead boxers is the "massive number" of altered brain cells.

Professor Bryan Jennet, Professor of Neurosurgery at Glasgow University, said studies of European champions in Scandinavia had found four out of eight amateurs and four out of six professionals had brain damage.

Report of the Board of Science working party on boxing (BMA, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9PJ).

Leading article, page 13; Blinded by science, page 24

Big holiday firms press for curbs on BA

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Three of Britain's largest holiday companies are calling on the Government to ban British Airways from both the charter flight business and all domestic routes after the state-owned airline is privatised next year.

Horizon Travel, Intasun and Thomson Travel say they are afraid that an entirely profit-oriented British Airways will use its lucrative monopoly on international scheduled routes to introduce subsidised prices and force the independent charter airlines out of the charter business.

The three companies run their own charter airlines: Orson, Air Europe and Britannia, which, they say could be jeopardised if British Airways is not specifically excluded from direct competition against them.

"They argue in a submission to the Civil Aviation Authority published yesterday that the aircraft charter business is the only sector of the airlines industry in which prices, sales and service levels are all left entirely to the market. That is in contrast to the strict regulation of international flights where British Airways is dominant."

Competition in the charter sector has led to efficient airlines, the three companies say.

"The competition fostered by the Civil Aviation Authority in the charter sector will no longer be undistorted but will be in danger of elimination", the submission says. The companies want British Airways' own charter subsidiary, British Air Tours, to be sold as a separate concern before privatisation. The companies also suggest that the smaller independent airlines in Britain should be left to operate domestic flights

BA brokers, page 17



Say cheese: Mr Albert Atkinson with a sample of Wensleydale bearing his name

Cheesemaster's farewell

A master cheesemaker, whose signature has appeared on millions of traditional English cheeses exported throughout the world, retires this week.

Mr Albert Atkinson, aged 63, helped to turn the manufacture of Wensleydale from a farmhouse industry to a business producing seven tons of cheese a day at Hawes in the Yorkshire Dales.

He developed the techniques that brought the cheese up to standards demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture after the creamery was set up as a cooperative by farmers with capital of £1,000.

The Milk Marketing Board bought the creamery for £250,000 in 1966 and introduced the baby Wensleydale and traditional cheeses bearing Mr Atkinson's signature as a tourist attraction.

John Lewis to pay worker-partners record £25m bonus

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The John Lewis Partnership, the staff-controlled department stores and supermarkets group, is paying a record bonus to its worker-partners which is almost half as much again as last year.

The group's 26,000 worker-partners will share £25m. Last year's £17m bonus was also a record. Bonuses are geared to pay levels and will be paid at 21 per cent of salary, which means that the average payout will for the first time exceed £1,000.

The payout is the second biggest in proportionate terms since the Partnership was set up in 1929. In 1979 there was a 24 per cent payout. Last year's was 16 per cent.

The Lewis family sold the group to the worker-partners for £1m under a trust arrangement and in 1950 gave up its voting rights. But the chairman of the Partnership is Mr Peter Lewis, grandson of the founder of the stores and nephew of the founder's son, Mr John Spedan Lewis, who set up the Partnership arrangement.

The Partnership operates 20 department stores and 76 Waitrose supermarkets. Two new supermarkets were opened in the last financial year and two others were relocated and expanded.

John Lewis benefited, like other retailers, from the consumer spending boom, but did better than the national average, according to the chairman.

Trading profits increased by 40 per cent to £70.8m, on sales of £1,072m which were up by 16 per cent. Allowing for inflation, the improvement in business in real terms was between 12 and 14 per cent.

The other big factor in swelling profits is that productivity within the group improved by about 8 per cent. The number of partners grew during the year by only 4 per cent.

Payments to the worker-partners will vary considerably because John Lewis has a

complex salary structure taking in factors like merit and differences between departments.

Scales are based on the going rates in retailing, which for a typical sales assistant in the provinces are about £3,700 a year and in London about £4,800. A provincial bonus on that basis would be just under £800 and in London marginally more than £1,000.

In the new financial year, which started at the end of January, Mr Lewis forecast reasonably good sales with further growth in real terms. But any increase in Partnership profit was likely to be "quite small", he said, because of pay increases and the addition of a fifth week of annual holiday

New owner for Ben Lomond

The National Trust for Scotland is the new owner of Ben Lomond, the 3,194ft Scottish mountain, after the approval yesterday by Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, of a special grant from the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

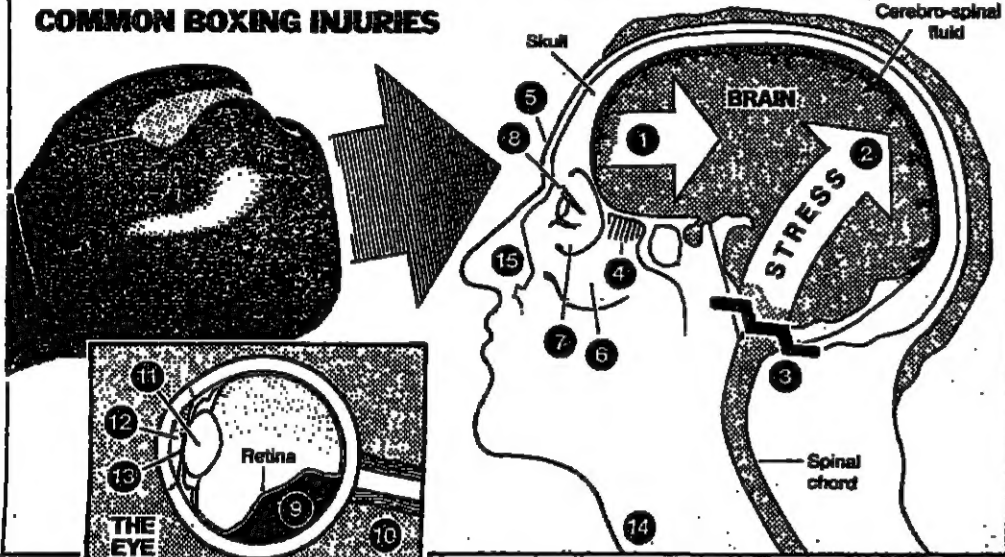
The grant allows the trust to purchase Blairdickie Farm, of 5.215 acres, which includes the summit and most of the mountain, from the Forestry Commission.

Operatic debut for cartoonist

Gerald Scarfe, the cartoonist, will make his debut as an opera designer for a new production of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, to be presented by the English National Opera at the London Coliseum on October 24.

Coliseum season, page 15

COMMON BOXING INJURIES



Brain: 1. Blow to head damages blood vessels and nervous tissue, causing blood and fluid to ooze. 2. Similar effect opposite impact site. 3. Savage blow can kill through sudden neck displacement, tearing the medulla. Progressive deterioration can then follow. 4. Nerve leading to the nose damaged. Face: 5. Cuts, particularly around eyebrows cause scar tissue, easily damaged again. 6. Eye socket bone and cheekbone can be fractured. Build-up of pressure causes fracture under the eye. 8. Eyelids bruised and torn. 9. Detached retina. 10. Optic nerve damaged. 11. Displacement of lens, which can be knocked out of the eyeball. 12. Bleeding in anterior chamber in front of lens. 13. Iris ruptured and torn, shutter action impaired. Other injuries: 14. Larynx damaged, with resulting husky voice. 15. Damage to nose bones, restricting air passages.

'Health risk' in end of glasses subsidy

By Tony Samstag

Government proposals to abolish the National Health Service subsidy for most spectacles could bring about an increase in eye diseases and put the health of the elderly at risk, opponents of the legislation said yesterday.

A number of professional bodies and pressure groups have organized a lobby of Parliament and issued statements deploring a clause in the Health and Social Security Bill which would limit the supply of NHS spectacles to children under 16 and people on very low incomes.

Sixty per cent of the population which needs glasses would be affected by the change, the British College of Ophthalmic Opticians (Optometrists) said. The result would be "to deter them from seeking a regular eye examination because of the cost implication; this could mean eye disease going undetected".

The most vulnerable would be the elderly and those whose incomes were low but not low enough to qualify for the subsidy the opponents said.

In a letter to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, Age Concern last week expressed its fear that older people might suffer eye complaints or poor sight "either because they could not afford to buy glasses or because there was less of an incentive to have their eyes tested".

About three-quarters of all registered blind and partially-sighted people are over the age of 65, and 27 per cent of all elderly people have some visual impairment, the letter continued.

The Association of Optical Practitioners linked the issue of NHS spectacles to the Bill's provision for allowing optical dispensing by non-opticians. Private spectacle costs were now among the lowest, if not the lowest in Europe, the association said.

Hormones 'double risk of strokes'

From Our Medical Correspondent
Tampa, Florida

Hormone replacement therapy for women after the menopause may not be as safe as is usually supposed and could increase the risk of suffering a stroke, a conference in Tampa, Florida, has been told.

Dr Peter Wilson, a leading American endocrinologist told the annual conference of the Cardio-Vascular Disease Epidemiology Association that in a study of 1,232 women between the ages of 50 and 83 those who had been prescribed oestrogen therapy faced double the risk of suffering a stroke.

He said: "According to our study it appears that it is the healthier women who are prescribed oestrogen and that only after they have taken it do they develop their risk of cardiovascular disease."

Hormone replacement therapy is used more extensively in the United States than in Britain. In the United States between 15 and 20 per cent of post-menopausal women are prescribed oestrogen at one time or another.

Apart from relieving the symptoms of the menopause oestrogen is being prescribed to alleviate osteoporosis (thinning of the bones in older women).

Thief caught by bleep

Leslie Brown, aged 36, a North Sea gas rig engineer, was fined £500 yesterday for stealing a pocket-sized emergency transmitter from a gas rig off the Suffolk coast and ordered to pay £1,500 costs.

Brown, of Rashieburn, Erskine, near Glasgow, pleaded

not guilty at Ipswich Crown Court, Suffolk.

The court was told how he had stored the faulty transmitter on top of a wardrobe and when it began to bleep a distress signal, a satellite relayed it to the RAF. After a large-scale, air-sea search the signal was tracked to Brown's home.

Curtain set to rise for Sunday theatre

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

London's theatres should be able to open on Sundays within the next two months. The Society of West End Theatre and the actors' union, Equity, have made a breakthrough in negotiations to end the union rule which bars most Sunday performances in the capital.

Theatre managements have dropped their insistence that actors should receive time off only for weekend working, and have offered Equity an unspecified overtime fee which the union is expected to accept.

Mr Bob Swash, the society's president, said yesterday that he hoped Sunday opening would be introduced by Easter,

and might prove attractive to a wide range of West End shows. The deal was pioneered by the producers of the musical, *Snoopy*, who are not members of the society. They won a one-off Sunday opening agreement in January.

Mr Swash said that the offer meant that existing London shows would be able to open for late afternoon performances on Sundays if all of the staff agreed to the idea. New shows would have the clause built into their agreement. In return for the Sunday show, performers would be paid overtime and given a night off during the week.

The offer represents a climbdown for theatrical managers, who had insisted previously that the only reward should be time off. Actors are not paid extra for Sunday working in television, films or radio, Mr Swash said.

In New York, where Sunday is one of the busiest days for theatre bookings, performers receive no extra payments.

Mr Swash, executive producer of *Erin*, said that he thought the breakthrough could prove attractive to a wide range of theatrical producers, particularly those involved in musicals.

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Howe to visit Israel after Jewish criticism of his support for Arabs

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is due to make his first official visit to Israel later this year, probably in the early summer. Preliminary diplomatic contacts have already taken place.

The visit will be the first by the British foreign secretary since Lord Carrington made his ill-fated mission to Jerusalem on the eve of the Falklands war in the spring of 1982. Because of the delicate state of the deadlock Middle East peace process, it will pose a severe test to Sir Geoffrey's diplomatic skills.

Sir Geoffrey has been under strong pressure from the Jewish lobby in Britain to visit Israel since his five-day fact-finding trip in January to Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. On March 26, he will accompany the Queen on her first official visit to Jordan, a royal tour that has already provoked criticism in Israel.

Diplomats here have speculated that the Foreign Office in London is making arrangements to speed up Sir Geoffrey's trip here to defuse criticism among leaders of British Jewry about the Queen's tour, which has also provoked controversy because of the dangers arising from possible terrorist incidents.

Last December, the Jewish Board of Deputies questioned the advisability of the visit. It said she should also visit Israel. Mr Greville Janner, the board's president, was later told in a letter that there were "no plans for Her Majesty to visit other countries in the region at present".

A month later, Sir Geoffrey angered British Jews and Israeli officials by calling on Riyadh, for radical changes in Israel's policy, including flexibility regarding Palestinian aspirations. The Board accused him of berating Israel without being

prepared to listen, and of "uncharacteristic malice" on his part.

The Foreign Office is suspected by Israel's ruling Likud party of being "soft" on the position of Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization. This suspicion will be deepened if, as expected, Sir Geoffrey gives his endorsement to the recent reconciliation between Mr Arafat and King Hussein.

The pitfalls facing British ministers visiting Israel were demonstrated last November during the three-day trip by Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Mr Luce was prevented by the Israeli authorities from meeting two senior deposed mayors from the occupied West Bank. British diplomats claimed that similar restrictions had not been imposed on other EEC ministers attempting to test Palestinian opinion. *Lebanon guide, page 10*

Assad appoints brother as deputy

Damascus (Reuters) - Syria has decided to appoint three vice-presidents, one of them President's Assad's younger brother, to ease the President's workload, according to diplomatic sources here.

Mr Rifaat al-Assad, whose powerful Defence Companies are the equivalent of a kind of

praetorian guard, would be Vice-President in charge of defence and security. Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam, the veteran Foreign Minister, would become Vice-President in charge of political and foreign affairs. The assistant regional secretary of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party, Mr

Zuheir Marharqa, would be Vice-President in charge of party affairs, the sources said. It would be the first government post for both the President's brother and Mr Marharqa. President Assad, who has ruled Syria for 13 years, spent more than two months in hospital last year.

Saudis free British executive from jail

By Richard Dowden

Mr Keith Carmichael, the British businessman held in Saudi Arabian jails since October 1981 and allegedly tortured, has been released.

The Foreign Office, criticized several times for its handling of the case, confirmed Mr Carmichael's release and said it reflected intensive efforts on his behalf.

His case was last raised by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during the visit by Crown Prince Abdullah last month.

Mr Carmichael, aged 50, was arrested trying to cross the border into Qatar after he had allegedly run up debts. He was never formally charged. In messages smuggled out of prison he said he was being held in solitary confinement, that he was starved and the soles of his feet were beaten with canes.

While being taken to hospital from Al Aoud prison in August 1982, his spine was broken. A report last year said he would suffer for the rest of his life from the injury.

It took the British consul 75 days to get to visit Mr Carmichael and more than a year to arrange for a British doctor to see him.

His case was taken up by Amnesty International. Opposition MPs criticized the apparent ineffectiveness of the Foreign Office in getting him released.

Last July, Mr Carmichael announced he was going on hunger strike. A Briton who visited him in prison in September said he was physically in a bad way.

Under Saudi law, debtors can be held in jail indefinitely until the debt is paid or waived. Mr Carmichael denied that he owes anything.

There are about 20 other Britons in prison in Saudi Arabia, mostly for alcohol offences.

Mystery of unnamed prisoners

By Our Foreign Staff

Three more names of Britons seized by the Unita guerrilla group in northern Angola two weeks ago have been discovered by *The Times* but it is still a mystery why the names of the other hostages have not been released.

Mr Graham Popplewell, aged 28, of Southampton, his Portuguese-born wife, Vera, also 28, and Mr Ian Smythe of London were among the 17 British mineworkers abducted by the rebels on February 23 at Cafunfu.

Fifty-eight other expatriate mineworkers including a woman and a child were seized at the same time.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that the company involved, Mining and Technical Services Ltd, had asked that their names should not be released.

A spokesman for the company said the families of the hostages had asked that the names should not be released but yesterday Mr David Popplewell, Graham's father, said that he had not been consulted. "It's no bother to us whether the names are released or not."

Planes collide

Emmen, Switzerland (AP) - Two Swiss military jets collided in bad weather and crashed but both pilots bailed out in time and neither was injured.

Mandela likely to stay in jail

Johannesburg - Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned African National Congress leader, yesterday visited her husband in jail near Cape Town, where he is serving a life term, and informed him of the Government's offer of a conditional release (Michael Hornsby writes).

The offer, never officially confirmed, was conveyed last month via Chief Kaiser Matanzima of the "Independent" Transkei tribal homeland. Mr Mandela would have to agree to live in Transkei after his release and family friends said it was virtually certain he would refuse.

Spy sentences increased

Helsinki (Reuters) - A Finnish reporter said to have spied for the Soviet Union had his sentence increased by the Supreme Court yesterday for passing on information that could damage Finland's international relations.

Matti Dumell, aged 32, was ordered to serve an eight-month jail sentence suspended by a lower court. Two others also had their sentences increased when their appeals on spy charges failed.

Mr and Mrs

Hollywood - Vanessa Redgrave may play both male and female roles in life story of Dr Renée Richards, the transsexual eye surgeon who became a top woman tennis professional in America. "Vanessa would play Renée as a man and then a woman", says Linda Yellin who hopes to produce the film for television.

Freedom day

Montevideo (Reuters) - Uruguay's military Government is to free the former left-wing presidential candidate, Señor Liber Seregni, one of Latin America's best known political prisoners, after holding him for eight years. He is expected to be released today.

Refinery fire

Delhi (Reuters) - An explosion at one of India's main oil refineries in Kerala state killed at least one person and started a serious fire. At least eight others were hurt and thousands were evacuated from their homes.

Yola inquiry

Lagos (AFP) - A tribunal is being set up to investigate last week's religious riots, which officially killed 536 people in Yola, capital of Nigeria's north-eastern Gongola state. The violence was caused by a renegade Muslim sect.

Finns walk out

Helsinki (Reuters) - About 100,000 office and technical workers, 4 per cent of Finland's work force, staged a one-day walkout after rejecting a settlement which averted a general strike.

Oldest prisoner

New York (AP) - A man who says he is 96 and has a criminal record dating back to 1929 has been sentenced to six months in jail for trying to swindle at least seven women. He is believed to be New York's oldest prisoner ever.



Civic armour: M Charles Scaglia, the new mayor of the French Riviera town of La Seyne sur Mer, wearing a riot-police helmet at City Hall as supporters of his predecessor, the Communist M Maurice Blanc, rioted outside, claiming that the election was invalid.

Polish boy died after beating

Police accused of cover-up

By Patricia Clough

Alleged attempts by Polish police to prevent justice being done after the fatal beating of a Warsaw schoolboy are described in a letter by Poland's leading human rights lawyer which has come into the possession of *The Times*.

The open letter, addressed to the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski, by Mr Wladislaw Sila-Nowicki, also gives details of pressure being put by police on another opposition lawyer, Mr Maciej Bednarkiewicz, who took up the schoolboy's case and has been arrested. He further accuses the police of failing to prosecute a gang which attacked a Warsaw convent in May last year, although he says they undoubtedly knew the culprits' identity.

"All this... is the result of dangerous anarchy in the Government," he writes. "It shows that articles of the criminal code can be disre-

garded without ceremony in the face of day-to-day political needs and considerations."

There was a danger "of creating hostility and indeed hatred among the population to the police apparatus as a whole".

The letter brought sharp attacks in the Government-controlled press, which accused Mr Sila-Nowicki of lying and slandering the legal authorities to stir up political emotions.

The police, Mr Sila-Nowicki wrote, "set a whole process in motion to foil investigations into the death of Grzegorz Przemyski, aged 19, who died in May last year as a result of internal injuries after allegedly being beaten in the police station in Jesuit Street, Warsaw."

"It started with preventing access to the dead boy's mother and including several methods of the pressure on witnesses - threats, attempts at intimi-

gation, 'unknown people' seizing children from school - to frighten those involved in this matter."

The press spokesman of the police command in Warsaw falsely declared the boy was never in the Jesuit Street station, contrary to statements by an eyewitness reporter and three groups of "experts at the highest level".

Attempts were made to put the blame on two ambulance workers before charges were finally laid against two policemen, two ambulance workers and two doctors. The police, however, were arrested for "beating where no physical damage was caused", a charge which brought a maximum of three years in jail.

And then came the "miracle" of the court hearing: after his arrest, one of the health workers admitted dealing the boy a fatal blow.

Pupils strike in battle of the cross

From Our Correspondent, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have indefinitely suspended classes at an agricultural training school near Garwolin, 40 miles south-east of Warsaw after a sit-in strike by several hundred students in protest against the removal of crucifixes from their classrooms.

On Wednesday, about two-thirds of the 600 students of the Stanislaw Staszic school staged a sit-in in the corridors for 14 hours in protest against the edict issued last December by

the school administrators ordering the removal of crucifixes from classrooms.

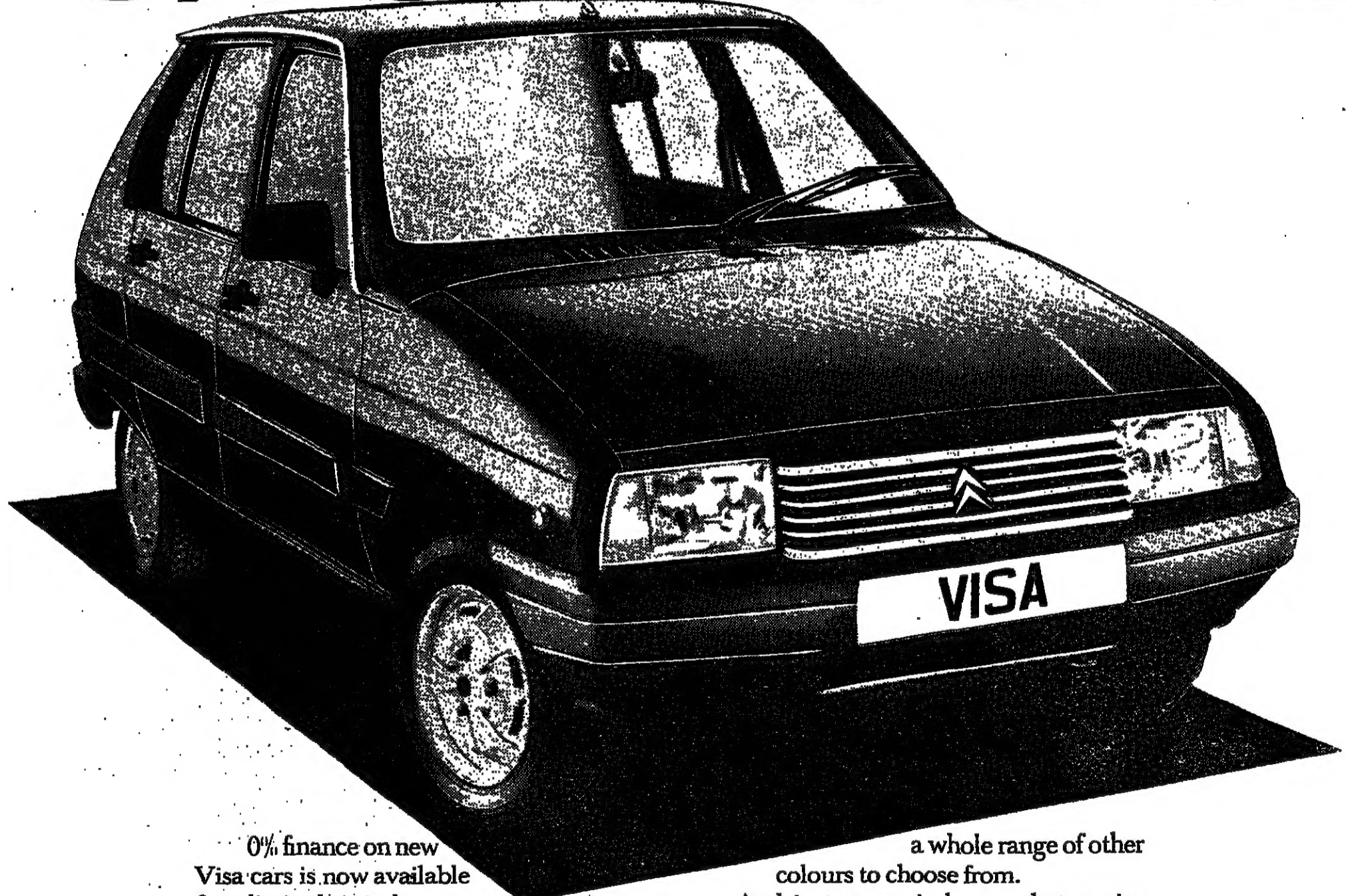
They ended their sit-in only after police surrounded the school building and threatened to evict them by force. When the teenagers tried to stage a peaceful, late night march to a church in the centre of Garwolin, they were turned back by a column of Zomo riot police blocking the road.

The latest "battle of the Cross" has put the communist

authorities at odds with the devoutly Catholic population of this rural town of 15,000. Students from two other local secondary schools boycotted classes yesterday to attend a Mass in support of the protest.

Hundreds of students, some of them wearing large wooden crucifixes under their coats, and their parents filled the Church of the Reconciliation to hear the local priest, Father Stanislaw Binko, denounce the police action.

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Botha and Machel agree to sign historic pact of non-aggression

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa and Mozambique will sign a pact of "non-aggression and good neighbourliness" at a summit meeting between Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and President Samora Machel next Friday, it was announced here yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting will take place on the border between South Africa and Mozambique close to the frontier towns of Komatipoort and Ressano Garcia. The agreement, the culmination of several months negotiation, will be known as the "Accord of Nkomati" after the name of a river that flows nearby.

The essential features of the agreement were worked out at meetings in Maputo and Cape Town on February 20 and

anti-government insurgency in Mozambique known as Renamo. It will be Mr Botha's first meeting as prime minister with a black African leader other than President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

Next Friday's meeting with President Machel, the head of the militant Marxist-Leninist government, appears to herald a general abandonment by the black states of the region of a policy of ostracizing Pretoria for one of accommodation.

In the case of both Mozambique and Angola, which is also engaged in peace talks with South Africa, economic necessity and fears of Pretoria's military strength seem to be the main factors which have brought once very hostile governments to the negotiating table.

Murder of famous film producer baffles Paris

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mystery continues to surround the death of Gerard Lebovici, one of France's foremost film producers, whose body was found on Wednesday, with four bullet wounds in the back of his head, in an underground parking lot in the Avenue Foch in Paris.

M. Lebovici, who was 51, was also known as a great impresario, and until 1981 ran the Armedia casting agency, which was associated with many of the best-known names in the French film industry, including Jean-Paul Belmondo, Gerard Depardieu, Catherine Deneuve, and Jeanne Moreau.

But despite the glamorous "showbiz" side of his life, he remained a reserved, secretive man, who hated the limelight, was hardly ever photographed in public and almost never gave interviews. "Cham Libre", a small publishing house dealing in off-beat marginal books, which he ran with his wife, was known for its total lack of any press service.

It was Cham Libre that published the autobiography by Jacques Mesrine, one of France's most notorious mass murderers, who was shot dead by the police in 1979. A new edition of the book, entitled *The Death Instinct*, had just been brought out to coincide with the opening in Paris last month of a controversial, semi-documentary film on Mesrine's life.



Mystery murder: M Lebovici with Catherine Deneuve during the presentation of the Cesar award in 1982.

tary film on Mesrine's life.

At present, however, the police are discounting suggestions of any link between M. Lebovici's death and the Mesrine affair, despite reports

may have been responsible for the telephone call to M. Lebovici on Monday evening shortly before he left his office off the Avenue Kleber at 6.35 p.m., never to be seen alive again.

Mondale confronts Jackson factor in Carter country

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Georgia's past is a brew of slavery, cotton, the Ku Klux Klan, Coca Cola, peanuts, cattle, hogs, *Gone with the Wind*, and Mr Jimmy Carter.

It is arguable which has been the most influential. It is routine to talk of Mr Carter's "balled presidency" but in Georgia they remember his grand gesture for Southern history in 1970 - the day he ostentatiously hung Martin Luther King's picture in the state capitol.

Until then, Georgia politics turned almost entirely on one overwhelming issue, race. Mr Carter heralded the new Georgia, the beginnings of which can be traced to the heartfelt cry of Governor Ellis Arnall 30 years ago: "Let's get off Tobacco Road".

Many of the instincts of old Georgia are today preserved by the rural hegemony, the "ruling rustics" as they were contemptuously called. Mr Carter sprang from that stock but abandoned them at precisely the right moment. He still has not been totally forgiven.

Atlanta is the capital of the South, a beautiful and prosperous centre of commerce and communications in bewildering contrast to most of its grimy Southern sisters. It is the jewel of the new Georgia. It is also the centre of Mr Carter's political network, which is working solidly for Mr Walter Mondale in the Georgia Democratic presidential primary next Tuesday.

Mr Carter's support is no guarantee of success but it does give Mr Mondale an entrée into rural Georgia, where liberal tendencies would normally wilt in the heat of the landowners' ultra-conservatism.

It will be the first truly contested Georgia Democratic primary in modern times - those of 1976 and 1980 were a theatre for the native son, when on both occasions he took more than 80 per cent of the vote.

It was so soon up in 1980 that only 385,000 people voted - about half the expected turnout next Tuesday. There is a sense of relief at the demise of

such tedious predictability and the return of a proper scrap.

About a third of Georgia's population lives in and around Atlanta. The predominantly black inner city provided Senator Edward Kennedy with his one and Georgia delegate to the national convention in 1980. The mainly white suburbs are staunchly conservative and will vote for whoever is perceived as the most like-minded Democratic contender in the primary - perhaps Senator John Glenn. But they will vote Republican in the general election.

Mr Mondale's election machine far outstrips anybody else's in Georgia - with Mr Carter's help it could hardly fail to. Both he and Mr Glenn have courted the state for at least the last 18 months but before that Mr Mondale was well known in the South as a member of the Carter Administration.

Mr Mondale and Mr Glenn could reasonably have expected to carve up Georgia between them next Tuesday but neither anticipated the "Jackson Factor". As in the other critical southern primaries in Florida and Alabama on the same day, nobody is sure precisely how the black vote will respond to Mr Jesse Jackson.

His derogatory reference to Jews as "Hymies" has been a serious blow, not because it has upset the black vote - it has not - but because it dominated his campaign for so many vital days.

Mr Bert Lance, chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party, believes the real damage to Mr Jackson is that he has been relegated from front-page status. "He cannot afford big television commercials. He is a one-man operation trading on his very substantial charisma. He needs the television networks badly and they are not giving him the same exposure. What the networks do in these final days can determine the outcome."

He added: "The South is the key battleground for the 1984 primaries. If Mondale wins all three states on Tuesday he will win the nomination. If he wins two he will still be in good shape. If he wins one he will be hurt badly. Nothing is certain any more."

Salvador pledge that dead will not vote

From John Carlin, San Salvador

"This time the dead won't vote," says the man organizing this month's elections in El Salvador. "In the elections two years ago dead people not only voted once, but sometimes twice."

Dr Armando Rodriguez, a lawyer and head of the five-man Central Elections Council organizing the presidential elections, due on March 25, is convinced there was widespread fraud in the elections for a constituent assembly. Equally he is convinced the new elections will be clean.

Last time people would vote, go back home, get the identity card of a dead friend or relative, change the photograph to their own, and go and vote again," says Dr Rodriguez, who estimates that more than 25 per cent of the 1.55 million votes cast in 1982 were fraudulent.

British and other foreign observers at the 1982 elections nevertheless left El Salvador satisfied that voting had been conducted correctly.

Dr Rodriguez, a member of the right-wing National Conciliation Party, says that the observers were able to witness "the most important thing about the '82 elections, namely

the massive voter turn-out, with the implications that carried that the guerrillas do not have popular support for their revolution." But the observers could not perceive every detail of the elections.

Dr Rodriguez believes double voting by the living, as well as the "living dead", as he puts it, accounted for a large part of the fraud.

Señor Barrera, vice-president of the extreme right Arena Party has accused his Christian Democrat rivals, for example, of sending more than 20 government lorries full of peasants on a tour of six towns in western Salvador to vote in each one.

"Often there were three times the number of votes in a ballot box than there were people in a town," Dr Rodriguez says.

"Four out of five men on the CCE, each representing a different political party, are convinced that the fraud took place. Only the Christian Democrat representative disagreed with the charges levelled by the others, who maintain that the Christian Democrat Party, the biggest single vote winner in the elections, was the one which benefited most."

Trawler shooting jolts Franco-Spanish links

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The incident in which nine Basques and Portuguese were injured when two Spanish boats, fishing illegally, were fired at on Wednesday by a French naval vessel, has badly jolted Franco-Spanish relations which had been slowly improving.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, today begins a visit to Madrid. However, Señor Alfonso Guerra, Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, said in Paris yesterday that if a "sufficiently clear" explanation of the incident was not forthcoming, relations could enter a "very difficult confrontation".

The Spanish Government - under opposition pressure - is showing anger, but it is a delicate time for Madrid. The worst incident with France in a long conflict as Spain's fishing fleets adapt reluctantly to Community rules comes just as Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, wanted nothing to upset relations with Paris over the much-desired start to EEC entry negotiations.

Now the atmosphere had been poisoned with another disruption, on top of Madrid's concern about Basque terrorists sheltering in France.

M. Pierre Guindon, the French Ambassador, told reporters that the French naval vessel was carrying out standing orders to enforce EEC fishing regulations when faced by Spanish boats which had repeatedly fished illegally and had, in this case, not obeyed when ordered to stop.



Señor Guerra: Fears of a confrontation

Spain does not dispute that the two boats from the Basque port of Ondarroa were caught in Community waters without licences. But the customary procedure is for seizure, confiscation of equipment and heavy fines for the Spanish skippers. There was, however, a shooting incident with the French in 1981.

Two fishermen who received serious leg wounds in Wednesday's incident were yesterday out of danger after being operated on in Bristol. They were from the trawler Achondo, on which all the injured were sailing.

The vessel, damaged in the shooting, was escorted into Lorient. The French authorities said the injuries were due to shrapnel from cannon fire, not machine guns, as the Spaniards have maintained.

The Achondo's crew were accused by the French of first trying to flee and then attempting to board the naval vessel.

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chips are stacked in favour of Goliath, and Trilogy's share price has halved since going public in 1983.

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He expects his computer to think four times as fast as IBM's current computer and to undercut its next model by 40%.

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The Economist believes you can't fully understand the business world until you know what's happening to business all over the world.

What Mr. Amdahl does in Cupertino, California can affect a Christmas bonus in Croydon or Carlisle.

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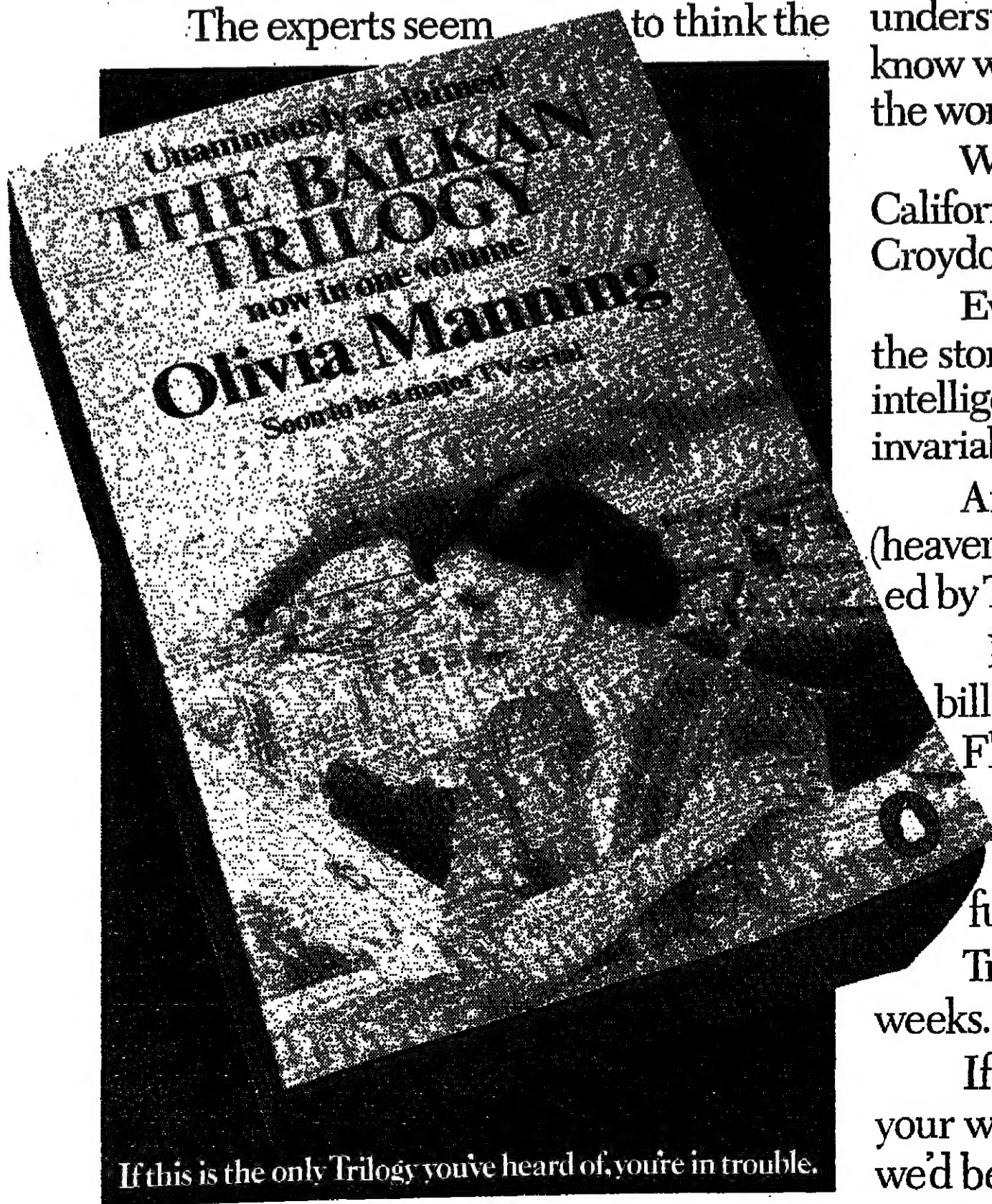
Mr. Amdahl, for instance, shared his billing with Jean-Luc Godard, Alexander Fleming and the Theatre of Comedy.

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The Economist



Nicaragua moves tanks and artillery to border with Honduras

From Alan Tomlinson, Jalapa, Nicaragua

Relations between Nicaragua and Honduras are deteriorating rapidly and tensions along their 500-mile border are growing.

Nicaragua has followed up complaints of increasing Honduran involvement in attacks by US-backed counter-revolutionaries by moving its Russian-built T55 tanks to the frontier. At least seven are deployed in the mountains of Nueva Segovia province between Ocotal and Jalapa facing an area of Honduras where thousands of Contras are entrenched.

The tanks are supported by 57mm artillery pieces and 120mm lorry-drawn mortars. A fresh battalion of regular soldiers and companies of

reservists and militia have also been moved up.

Far from responding to Nicaragua's accusations in a conciliatory manner, the Honduran Government has chosen this moment to expel the Nicaraguan Chargé d'Affaires, Señor Javier Adiles Ibarra, from Tegucigalpa.

He is accused of turning the embassy into a centre for the dissemination of Marxist propaganda, acting undiplomatically by making public accusations against Honduran officials and of being too strident in his criticisms of the strong American military presence in Honduras.

Relations between the two

countries have shown increasing strains since 3,000 US troops began to arrive last August for joint exercises with the Honduran Army. They deteriorated sharply with the recent mining of Nicaraguan ports by the contras (right-wing Nicaraguan rebels), air attacks on patrol boats in the Gulf of Fonseca which killed three sailors and the deaths of seven young soldiers and a baby girl in the latest frontier clashes.

The Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto has warned of the risk of an international incident of serious proportions unless the Hondurans desist and begin to disarm the estimated 10,000 contras camped in their territory.



Refugee anger: Afghan refugees in Delhi yesterday marking the visit to India of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, with the demands for Moscow to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Aquino version refuted again

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippine security guard yesterday told an inquiry that, after hearing a shot, he saw two soldiers coming down the steps from an airliner, holding the body of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

The testimony of Mr Efren Ranas from a five-man commission of inquiry into Aquino's death last August, differs greatly from the military version of the killing.

The military claim the

Rolando Galman, an alleged communist agent and hired assassin, penetrated a cordon and killed Aquino with a single shot to the back of the head as he was being escorted across the tarmac to a waiting military van. Galman was then shot dead.

Aquino returned on August 21 after three years' self-exile in the United States. He was killed moments after his China Airlines plane landed at Manila airport.

Mr Ranas said he was 45ft from the aircraft's side boarding steps, down which Aquino was brought, when he heard a shot.

"I tried to check where the shot came from. Then I saw three men coming down the stairway, the man in white (Aquino), then two men on both sides holding him. The head of the man in white was bent towards the ground. I ran away and as I ran I heard more shots."

How the good life causes cancer

From Baily Morris, Washington

Now that Lent is upon us, the United States Government has taken the unprecedented step of endorsing an anti-cancer diet designed to convince Americans to give up all year long what most of them regard as life's small pleasures.

Cigarettes, free-flowing wine, thick, juicy steaks, fish and

chips and prolonged sunbathing are all on the forbidden list.

What the Government has endorsed, and will soon promote in a nearly \$1m (almost £700,000) television advertising campaign this summer, is a new living and dietary regime, encouraging consumption of firm fruits and raw vegetables,

great quantities of fibre in the form of bran or whole-grain foods, grilled fish and skinless poultry.

In announcing the new anti-cancer campaign, Mrs Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services, said the dietary, non-smoking regime could save 95,000 lives a year

and reduce death from cancer by 25 per cent in the year 2000.

Unfortunately, according to a new government poll, 49 per cent of the US population is unaware of what to do to prevent cancer and another 46 per cent believes there is nothing that can be done.

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Third poll in four years for Anguilla

The Valley, Anguilla (Reuters) – The tiny British Caribbean colony of Anguilla goes to the polls today for the third time in four years, two years ahead of schedule.

Mr Ronald Webster, the controversial Chief Minister who has dominated the politics of the island for two decades, told reporters that he was looking for a vote of confidence to complete his main projects – among them an airport and a deepwater harbour – before considering retirement.

Independence is not an issue at this election. Mr Webster says he does not expect the 7,000 Anguillians to consider independence for 30 to 40 years. Strengthening the shaky economy, dependent traditionally on tourism and fishing, is a higher priority.

Both he and the opposition leader, Mr Emile Gumbs, point to economic problems suffered by former British colonies, such as Grenada, Dominica and Antigua.

Mr Gumbs has criticized the Chief Minister's decision to call the election two years ahead of schedule as presenting an image of instability to the Caribbean and the world.

A low-lying coral island of 35 square miles at the northern tip of the Leeward archipelago, Anguilla would probably remain forgotten but for its lively politics.

It hit the world's headlines in 1967 after Mr Webster led a rebellion against the three-island federation of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla for what Anguilla saw as excessive taxation. Britain landed a small force to restore direct rule and Anguilla became a self-governing colony in 1976.

Anguilla's secession from St Kitts-Nevis was formalized in 1980, and it is today one of six Caribbean islands which remain British colonies.

Although executive power is vested in the British Governor, the seven members of Anguilla's House of Assembly have effective control over the island's domestic affairs.

The island has no income tax and relies on Britain for about 10 per cent of its £3.3m annual budget. It also receives about £1.3m development aid a year.

Customs men call fuel strike

From Richard Sargent, Vienna

Italian customs officers at Thorf-Magden, Austria's second most important frontier crossing point to Italy, yesterday called for a full-scale strike for next Thursday if the Austrian Government continued to delay implementing their pay rise.

Working 10 1/2 hours for the second day running, representatives of their union's decision to Rome is call off the dogs, the customs officers have already caused the build-up of a queue of 300 lorries on the Austrian side of the frontier.

In the event of the go-slow, spreading to the Brenner Pass, the Austrian Government has announced that it will take immediate steps to avoid the chaos of last month, when more than 1,000 lorries were stranded in the Austrian Tiro, threatening to force the closure of the Austrian frontier with West Germany to lorries, and the arrangement of alternative parking areas around the Italian frontier.

● **ROME** Italian customs officials have called off their work-to-rule here, in force since Tuesday, after meeting between their representatives and the Minister for the Civil Service, Signor Remo Gaspari, (John Earle writes).

A statement issued by their union said the minister showed them a Bill approved by the Cabinet, which met most of their claims for higher pay and increase in their managers. The minister was also expected to have assured them that the Government intended to apply soon EEC directives for the speedier handling of exit and entry procedures for long-distance lorry traffic.

Knife attack on top MP shocks Japan

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Japan was shocked yesterday when Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, a former Foreign Minister, was attacked and slightly injured.

The attacker's motives were unknown.

The incident took place in a Tokyo Hotel room, where Mr Miyazawa, a contender for the premiership had been invited by the assailant, named as Hirofumi Higashiyama, who claimed to be the secretary of the chairman of a large Buddhist organization, the Rissho Kosei-Kai.

The assailant, aged 54, from Sapporo, smashed a glass ashtray over Mr Miyazawa, wounding him on the head, and then tried to slash his own wrists with a small fruit knife.

Mr Miyazawa, who also received minor injuries from the knife, and was taken to hospital. His attacker, who apparently operates on the shadowy fringes of Japanese politics, was taken to a police hospital.

Although Mr Miyazawa's injuries were not serious, the incident focused attention on the shifting internal politics of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Mr Miyazawa, aged 64, is a senior member of the faction of former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and is counted among the "new leaders" who may challenge Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, for the top job in a party election scheduled for November.

Greece condemns US for stand on Cyprus but rules out war option

From Mario Modiano
Athens

President Kyprianou of Cyprus and Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, are bitterly disappointed by Washington's reluctance to wrest concessions from Turkey, which they see as the only way to solve the Cyprus problem.

In long discussions in Athens this week they began what they called a radical reappraisal of their course. They are aware that the present deadlock works against Greek interests since it tends to consolidate the status quo on the divided island.

"War is not one of our options," the Cypriot President's spokesman, Mr Andreas Christofid, said. "This, however, does not deny Cyprus the right to beef up its defences which, in turn, would enhance our negotiating power."

The idea of dispatching a Greek Army division to Cyprus to match the 17,500-odd Turkish troops in the secessionist north has often been aired in recent months.

Mr Papandreu himself implied this was an option in a recent speech in which he gave warning that if Turkey engaged in military action in Cyprus "this time we shall not just lodge an appeal to the United Nations".

During President Kyprianou's earlier visit to Athens, the Defence Ministers of Greece and Cyprus joined in the talks for the first time. The Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr Christodoulos Veniamin, is a frequent if unpunctuated visitor to the Athens "pentagon" which houses the general staff headquarters.

It was significant and unusual that President Kyprianou yesterday had a separate meeting here with the Greek Minister of



President Kyprianou: Waiting for Turkey's response

State for Defence, Mr Antonis Drososyannis.

But the Cypriot spokesman denied on Wednesday that any decision had been taken to send Greek troops to Cyprus. Turkey has already given warning that it would not tolerate having the present balance of forces on the island upset.

Opinions on the effect of such a move are divided. Those who remember the humiliating terms of the 1968 withdrawal of Greek troops, who had been sent to Cyprus clandestinely by Mr Papandreu's father in the early 1960s, fear it might trigger a major crisis if not war.

Akel, the Greek Cypriot Communist Party, voiced its firm opposition to the plan in a resolution last month which said that a Greek military presence in Cyprus would adulterate the nature of the struggle and turn Cyprus into another Lebanon.

Akel's reaction reflected Moscow's standing concern that such a development would move Cyprus closer to "double enosis", which would eventually turn the island into a NATO

province divided between Greece and Turkey.

The Communists claimed that supporters of the plan argued that it was the only way to precipitate conditions in which NATO and the Americans would feel compelled to act decisively, to avert the eruption of another manmade volcano in a highly inflammable region.

Mr Papandreu has taken the Americans to task, saying that they have been bowing to their own strategic interests in lavishing economic and military aid on Turkey, "almost as a reward" for Turkey's intransigence on Cyprus.

"Pressures are being exerted not on Turkey but on Nicosia," he said. It was because of this American attitude that the Cyprus issue now entered a new phase, one of reappraisal.

The paradox was that the pressure on the Greek Cypriots came less from the Americans than from Akel (President Kyprianou's closest political ally) which was pressing for greater concessions from the Greek side to reactivate the intercommunal dialogue.

President Kyprianou, who is still awaiting Turkey's response to his own proposals for a Cyprus solution, refuses to sit at the negotiating table until the Turkish Cypriots revoke last November's unilateral declaration of independence. Akel argues that the resumption of the talks does not imply recognition of the secessionist state.

● GENEVA: Of the 20,000 Greek Cypriots who were living in the Turkish section of the island only 868 now remained, the Greek-Cypriot delegate, Mr Andreas Mavrommatis, told the 43-nation Human Rights Commission yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).



House of hope: West Germany's imposing embassy in Prague

Bonn silent on immigrants

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

solving such humanitarian questions, the family was given a promise it would be allowed to go to West Germany sometime in the future provided its members first returned to East Germany and made proper applications.

The embassy in Prague is part of a restored baroque palace near the city centre, and has been leased by the West Germans from the Czech Government to serve as Bonn's embassy since 1975. The Federal Republic has had full diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia only since 1973.

The Embassy has a private garden at the back, where last week West German television showed a group it presumed were East German asylum applicants going for a walk.

The Embassy itself, comprising about 1,000 square yards of office space, has refused to say where the East Germans have been accommodated, how they entered the building or what security arrangements exist inside the building. A spokesman recently insisted, however, that work inside the mission was going on "completely as normal".

Last weekend Bild newspaper, which was quick to reveal the presence of East Germans in the Embassy, said some 3,000 had sought asylum there since the beginning of the year and had been allowed to go directly from Prague to West Germany. However, a Bonn Government spokesman was quick to deny this, saying the figure had been "plucked out of thin air", and was a "nonsensical exaggeration".

Czechoslovakia is the only country in Eastern Europe - or anywhere - which East Germans can visit without prior permission and where they can cross the frontier using only their identity cards.

It has been suggested here that the wave of asylum applicants may have been connived at by the East German authorities themselves to serve as a pretext for introducing travel restrictions.

The present wave of asylum applicants started in January when six people sought refuge in the American embassy in East Berlin. Another 12 went to the West German mission there. They were all subsequently allowed to leave.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

Mosaic with a rich Eastern touch

Vancouver was a gold-rush staging post, a lumber camp and a few rowdy saloons when the first Chinese arrived here.

They helped to build the Canadian Pacific railroad, which opened up western Canada. They endured the racist brutality of white frontiersmen, and settled to create the second largest Chinatown in North America, after San Francisco's.

Almost a century later a new and significant group of Chinese are arriving. They are wealthy and shrewd. They are concerned about the future of Hongkong, their base, and are looking for somewhere to put their money. Until recently most of them knew little of Canada, but its stability, investment opportunities, and a Government which encourages entrepreneurs, makes it increasingly attractive.

Vancouver's business community, which has plenty of high-rolling adventurers, is becoming excited about the prospect of greater flow of money from Hongkong. The recession hit here hard, unemployment is high, around 12 per cent, and many of the high-rollers are looking pale.

Chinese from Hongkong are buying shops and apartment blocks. In one district of the city they have bought half the flats and recently purchased a \$1.5m sports centre. In 1983, a third of the 300 business deals put up to the British Columbia Government were made by Chinese.

Hongkong money is going to other parts of Canada, too. In three years businessmen from the colony have spent \$500m on property in Toronto. Canada's business centre. Under newly relaxed immigration rules Chinese entrepreneurs get two-year permits to travel and assess opportunities here.

The growing interest being shown in Canada by Chinese - the British lease on Hongkong expires in 13 years - is making eastern Canadians more aware of their own place on the Pacific. The talk, increasingly, is of the trading opportunities in the Pacific rim the huge markets of Asia, and the competition of Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

In this respect, Vancouver, the largest North American Pacific coast port, is changing its view of itself. It always seemed to be at the end of the road, 2,700 miles from Ottawa,



beyond the prairies, beyond the Rocky Mountains. Today, its 1.3 million people are looking outwards much more than they used to.

Japan, one of Canada's leading trading partners, is closer to Vancouver than to Halifax on the Atlantic coast, and more western Canadians are holidaying in Japan and looking for business there.

Quite apart from the Hongkong entrepreneurs with money on their minds, there is a growing Asian element in Vancouver. Chinese and Japanese communities go back two or three generations and there are also relative newcomers like the Vietnamese, Cambodians, Sikhs and Indians who fled Amin's Uganda. These five alongside other immigrants like Italians, Greeks and Hispanic people, half the children in Vancouver primary schools have a mother tongue other than English.

Vancouver thus reflects the ethnic mosaic that has assembled in all of Canada's big cities, including Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Winnipeg. Toronto has more Italians than many Italian cities here, and rates bills as high as several languages.

Canada had 12 million people at the end of the Second World War, half of them of British origin. Now the population has doubled and the Anglo-Saxon and French element is peppered and incorporated by other groups that have been arriving at the rate of about 100,000 a year since Canada's immigration rules were loosened 15 years ago.

Canada has sought a more melting-pot and believes it has learnt from observations of racial and cultural friction in Britain and in the United States.

Certainly there are quarrels, but there is also a high level of tolerance and a low rate of violence. Canadians have a tradition of working out compromises.

Left takes a beating at Athens bar

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens

New evidence that the popularity of the ruling Socialists has been seriously eroded after almost two and a half years in power, has emerged with the election by the Athens Bar Association - traditionally a left-wing stronghold - a conservative president for the first time in three decades.

Of some 20,000 lawyers in Greece who elect presidents in 56 bar associations every three years, more than one half are in Athens where the conservative

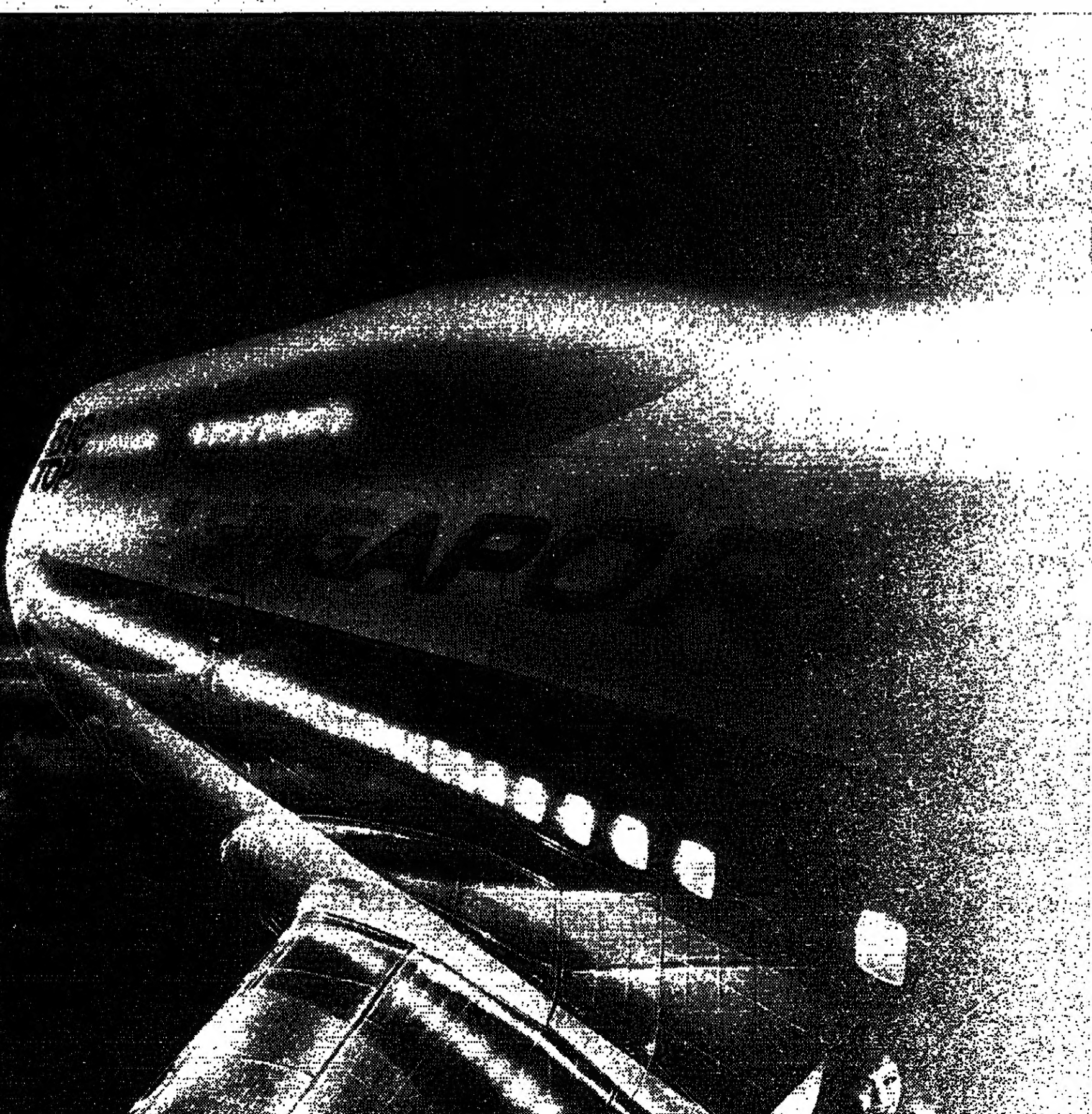
candidate, Mr Epameinondas Zafeiropoulos, won an absolute majority in the run-off election on Tuesday.

Even more significant was the fact that his rival, the outgoing president, Mr Evangelos Mahairas, a Communist Party candidate, won barely one-third of the votes in the first round, although he had Socialist support. Socialist and Communist candidates in 1981 had polled together two-thirds of the vote.

In the Salonika Bar Association, the president, an independent, won a fourth term with conservative backing, against his challenger who had full left-wing support.

Comparable results came from 22 cities where the conservative candidates won, against in which the Socialists prevailed and eight others where they won jointly with the Communists. The rest went to independents and the smaller parties.

NOW BIG TOP COMES OVER THE HORIZON AS REGULARLY AS THE SUN.



SIA, the only airline flying Stretched Upper Deck 747s from Heathrow to Singapore and Australia, will now be operating BIG TOP every single day of the week. Inside, it has an upstairs deck which is twice the size of a normal 747's. And which has been designed as a single cabin to

accommodate the Business Class. On this private floor, you have your own bar service, movie facilities and galley. The seats are as wide and as comfortable as you'd expect and set only two abreast. Giving you the choice of sitting by a window or the aisle.

Downstairs, the First Class cabin is one of the most spacious in the world. All the seats are fully reclining Snoozzzers. Economy Class, too, has its share of extra room, with more space to stretch out between the specially contoured seats. In fact, because of its unique interior

design, BIG TOP has more of just about everything. More room, more movie areas, more galleys. And more gentle hostesses to give you the kind of inflight service other airlines talk about. And most people dream about.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

SPECTRUM

THE TIMES

GUIDE TO LEBANON

American troops have left Lebanon. The country's differences remain. Faction leaders meet in Lausanne for talks next week. Some reasons for the conflict were there from the nation's beginning; others are caused by outside forces. Robert Fisk and Edward Mortimer explain.

The lost pearl of the Orient

In 1892, when European tourists first began to travel the Middle East in any numbers, John Murray's *Guide to Syria and Palestine* made a few brief introductory references to Lebanon. "The Lebanon district," the travellers were told, "is ruled by a Christian governor, appointed by the Porte and his authority is guaranteed by the Christian powers of Europe." In the "Lebanon district" - for Lebanon would not be a separate state for another half century - the writer identified the various religious communities which inhabited the land: Sunni and Shia Muslims, the Druze, the Maronite Christians, the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians.

In those days, Lebanon was part of Syria and, together with Palestine and much of the Arab world, was ruled by the effective, increasingly corrupt but still strongly Ottoman Empire. The government was appointed by the Sublime Porte. But in many ways, the Lebanon of 1892 is still identifiable to us, for its geographic heartland in the mountains above Beirut, its Christian leadership and diverse religious communities are still there, in many cases in the very same villages where they existed more than 90 years ago. And until last month, the presence of a European-American multinational army in Beirut reminded the world that Lebanon was still guaranteed by the Christian powers.

The withdrawal of that army, and the legacy its departure has left behind, is an important historical event, for Lebanon has come to be regarded over the past century as a kind of Christian refuge in the Middle East, an oasis of Euro-Christianity within a desert of Islam as some orientalists would cruelly have us believe. Because the Christians had sought sanctuary from persecution around Mount Lebanon, their minority status in the region became something akin to sacred in the eyes of the European powers. When the Druze massacred Christians in the Chouf Mountains a century ago, the French army landed in Lebanon. The country was seen by France, and by the rest of Europe, as morally and historically important.

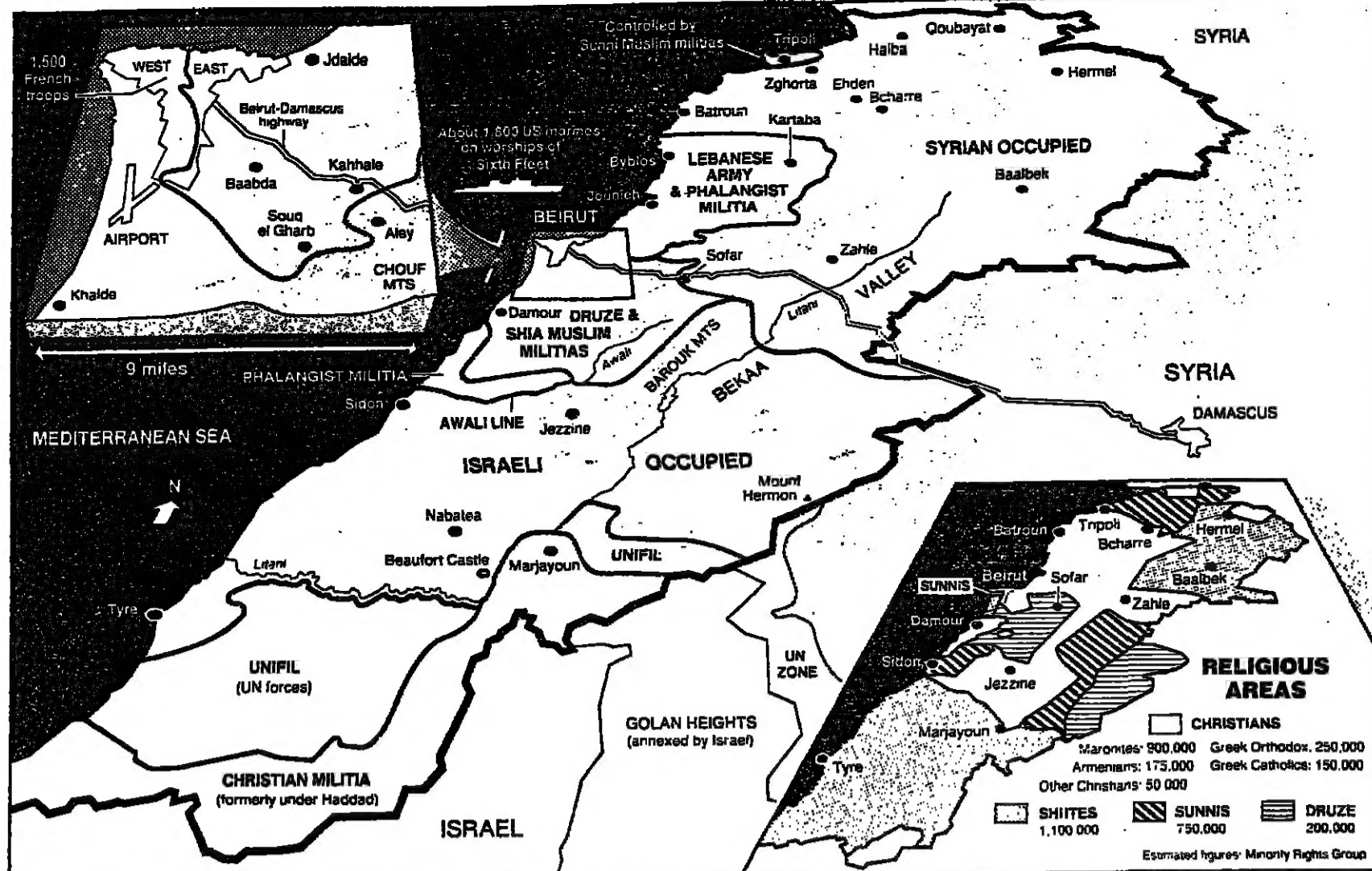
Thus, after the Second World War, when Lebanon had secured its independence from French mandate, the nation was

ruled by Christians still. They did so courtesy of a carefully constructed system of power-sharing that showed much French influence, a framework that gave the Maronites the presidency, the Sunni Muslims the prime ministership with an army chief of staff who was always a Druze and an Assembly speaker who had to be a Shia Muslim.

The old monochrome newsreel films of the 1950s and 60s, suggest that things were not as halcyon as the travel brochures suggested. While the cameramen for Pathe News could not resist the surfers of the St George Hotel, much of their material, scratched and faded though it is in the archives, has a disturbing familiarity for us today. The films show street battles in Beirut and Tripoli, and Hawker Hunter jets strafing "rebels" in the Muslim slums. Newsreels more than 20 years old depict American marines landing on the beaches south of Beirut. Democracy did not seem to be working.

To many Muslims in Lebanon, democracy did not even exist. There were two reasons why they thought this. There had been no population census since 1932 and although Muslims now formed a majority of the population - and Shia Muslims were now the largest community - there was no way of proving this. The Sunnis, the more well-to-do of Lebanon's Muslims, feared that a change in the system might discriminate against them, were happy to accept the status quo. Furthermore, the social consensus that the Lebanese regarded as the bedrock of their national life was equally non-existent. The state was founded upon family consensus, upon the rule of quasi-feudal families like the Frangieh, the Jumblatt and the Gemayel. Those who were not represented by this aristocracy of power - and the Shia, poor and impoverished in the south of Lebanon, were the principal victims of the system - simply lacked any real stake in the country to which they were supposed to be loyal.

The divisions that have characterized the nearly nine years of horror and bloodshed that have not yet ended in Lebanon were thus clearly defined long before the nation broke apart in civil war in 1975. It is a truism of the Lebanese that their suffering has been brought about by outside



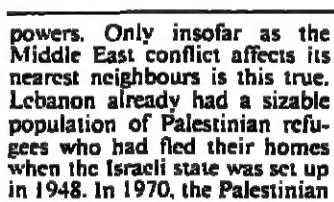
1943 Lebanon declares independence. Unwritten National Pact.
1948 Israel created. Palestinian refugees arrive in Lebanon.
1956 First civil war. US marines sent to support President Chamoun.
1968 Israel begins retaliatory raids against Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.
1969 Lebanese Army, backed by Phalangists, fights PLO; then signs Cairo Agreement regulating guerrilla activities.
1970 President Frangieh becomes President. PLO transfers its headquarters from Jordan.
1975 Civil war breaks out. PLO and pro-Arab Lebanese left versus Christian Lebanese nationalists.
1976 Syria intervenes to save Frangieh and Christians from left-wing victors. Elias Sadr elected president with Syrian support.
1978 Israel invades south Lebanon, then withdraws, handing over part to UNIFIL and part to Haddad militia.
1981 July: Israel bombs Beirut. PLO shells Galilee. Philip Habib arranges ceasefire.
1982 June: Israel invades Lebanon. Siege of Beirut. August: PLO leaves Beirut. Bashir Gemayel elected President. September: Bashir Gemayel assassinated. Sabra-Shatila massacre. Amn Gemayel becomes President. US marines return to Beirut as part of multi-national force.
1983 May: Israeli-Lebanese agreement signed. September: Israel withdraws to Awail line. Civil war in Chouf mountains. October: Bomb attacks in Beirut kill nearly 300 US and French troops.
1984 February: British, Italian and US troops pull out. Shia militia conquers West Beirut. Muslim army units defect to opposition.
1984 March: Lebanon cancels agreement with Israel.

PRO-GOVERNMENT

Lebanese Forces (2000 regulars, 10,000 reservists): The Christian militia built up by the late Bashir Gemayel between 1976 and his death on September 14 1982 - a week before he was due to take office as President. The main component is the Phalange Party founded (in 1936) and still led by his father Pierre Gemayel, now aged 78.



The political wing is the Lebanese Front, chaired by ex-President Camille Chamoun, who will be 84 next month, and whose son Dany is the hard-line candidate for President if Amin Gemayel falls. The Chamouns' separate militia was suppressed by Bashir Gemayel in 1980. They may now emerge as leaders of opposition to Amin Gemayel's new rapprochement with Syria.



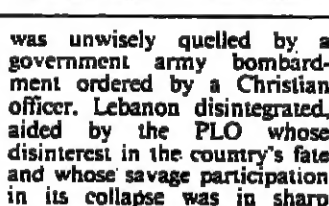
power. Only insofar as the Middle East conflict affects its nearest neighbours is this true. Lebanon already had a sizable population of Palestinian refugees who had fled their homes when the Israeli state was set up in 1948. In 1970, the Palestinian forces driven out of Jordan by King Hussein's army also fled to Lebanon and a state within a state was born.

The Palestinians did not start the civil war although their presence stoked the distrust and suspicion that already existed between the rival communities. A fishermen's strike in Sidon

The rumour of the Lebanese Army and state machinery, mainly Christian, is loyal to President Amin Gemayel, who was elected after his brother's death. Regarded as the moderate member of the family and initially backed by Lebanese of all communities, Amin steadily lost support among Muslims as his regime took on a Phalangist partisan flavour.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT

Ex-President Suleiman Frangieh, who will be 74 in June, still rules his northern fief of Zghorta under the protection of the Syrian army. It was Frangieh who called in the Syrians to save Christian Lebanon in 1976, and he continued backing them when other Maronite leaders swung against them the following year. His more extreme group "Islamic Amal", led by Husain Musawi, has been blamed for suicide attacks on American, French and Israeli forces.



Druse: mountain militia of up to 7,000 men under leadership of Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. Jumblatt, became leader in 1977 after his father's assassination - almost certainly by the Syrians whose 1976 intervention he had opposed. Having learnt the lesson, Walid relied on Syrian support and weapons in his struggle against the Gemayel government.

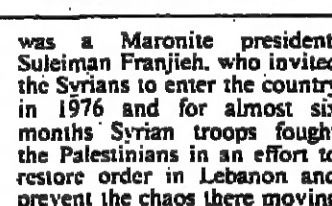
Amal: Shia Muslim militia led by Nabih Berri, probably capable of fielding up to 10,000 armed men in both Beirut and southern Lebanon. Now joined by defecting units of the army (11,000 men), Druse, more extreme group "Islamic Amal", led by Husain Musawi, has been blamed for suicide attacks on American, French and Israeli forces.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPETING FORCES

Sunni Muslims: the old Ottoman ruling class (see below), lack any sizable military force but under the "National Pact" have always provided the prime minister. Their elder statesman, Saeb Salam, born in 1905, initially supported the Gemayel regime but later washed his hands of it.

FOREIGN

Yassir Arafat's PLO is a spent force in Lebanon since its departure from Beirut under Israeli pressure in 1982, followed by Arafat's expulsion from Tripoli under Syrian pressure in December, 1983. Perhaps up to 5,000 guerrillas remain in Lebanon, mainly under command of the Palestinian rebel leader Abu Saleh and could be reactivated by Syria as



September 1982, American marines - with troops from France and Italy and later Britain - arrived to protect the Muslims of Beirut. But President Reagan decided they had come to support the government of President Amin Gemayel whose brother Bashir had been murdered after obtaining the presidency with Israel's assistance three weeks earlier and, inevitably, the Sixth Fleet ended up by defending Gemayel's government. Since Gemayel had been a Phalangist, since his security apparatus was principally run by Phalangists

and since his government came to be opposed by a majority of Muslims, the American naval bombardments that began last year were directed against the Druse and Shia Muslim militias, the enemies of the Phalange. The Christians of Lebanon were still being supported by the Christian powers of Europe and America.

Now with the Christian powers all but gone, the triumphant Syrians are set upon an "Arab" Lebanon that shows its Muslim majority in terms of political power and which, no

doubt, will be expected to show gratitude towards Syria for its national salvation. The Gemayel government has fallen apart and the Israelis now have nothing left to show for their 1982 invasion. The Americans have abandoned the pearl of the Orient. The Christian Maronites themselves now feel abandoned. There are those who believe that the Christians may simply leave for the European states that have supported them in vain for the past 100 years. In which case, the Lebanon the world believed in is no more.

other confessions can match and a reputation as extremely formidable adversaries. They established their independence from outsiders and a system of social bonds not unlike that of European feudalism, from the sixteenth century onwards, with peasantry serving landed families who themselves formed a hierarchy of nobility recognizing the paramountcy of one family.

(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)

CHRISTIANS

The Greek (or Arab) Orthodox - estimated numbers 250,000. Traditionally supports Arab or Syrian rather than purely Lebanese nationalism.
The Greek Catholic Church - estimated 150,000 - is a splinter from the above. Retains oriental rites and customs but recognizes Papal supremacy.
The Maronite Church - 900,000 - related with Rome since 1216

and in formal union with the Holy See since 1736. Refugees in Mount Lebanon since at least the seventh century AD, the Maronites see themselves as the most authentic Lebanese and have generally rejected Arab nationalism. The 1943 National Pact gave them the presidency of the Republic, and so a dominant position in the state.

SUNNIS
These form the "Muslim

establishment" in as much as Sunni Islam was the official confession of the Ottoman empire. Sunnis live mainly in the parts of Syria added to historic Mount Lebanon by France to form the "Etat du Grand Liban" in 1920. Traditionally therefore they were Arab nationalists and hostile to the specifically Lebanese nationalism associated with the Maronites. In the National Pact of 1943 they accepted Maronite

dominance within Lebanon - in return for recognition of Lebanon's Arab identity and acceptance that the prime minister should always be a Sunni. Overlaid demographically by the despised Shia Muslims, the Sunnis are perhaps the main losers of the civil war, having failed to organize an effective military force of their own.

SHIA MUSLIMS

They belong to the minority branch of Islam which holds that Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, was his rightful successor. In Lebanon they lived mainly south of Sidon and in the Bekaa mtd, as the poorest and most populous community attracted by urbanization, and as the main victim of Israeli air-

raids and incursions in the south, many of them moved to Beirut where they are now the largest community. Living especially in the southern suburbs and shantytowns, initially attracted by communism, from the early 1970s they found a communal and spiritual leader of their own: the Imam Musa Sadr, who had close ties with the clergy in Iran, including Khomeini. He disappeared in Khmeini in 1978.

DRUZE

They are a splinter from a splinter of Shism, theologically on the borderline of Islam. They started as followers of an eleventh century Caliph of Egypt. After his disappearance its adherents fled to the southern part of Mount Lebanon where they became the neighbours of the Maronites. The Druze have maintained a degree of social solidarity few

other confessions can match and a reputation as extremely formidable adversaries. They established their independence from outsiders and a system of social bonds not unlike that of European feudalism, from the sixteenth century onwards, with peasantry serving landed families who themselves formed a hierarchy of nobility recognizing the paramountcy of one family.

(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

- Travel: Salute to adventurers - safaris, trekking, trips in the jungle and Antarctica
- Flower power: The exotic world of orchids
- Sport: Preview of the last eight in the FA Cup and John Player Cup
- Family Money: Last-minute ways to beat the Budget



Spirit of adventure: Trekkers in the Himalayas, Nepal

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Bernard Levin on literary graffiti; paperbacks of the month; a selection of March wines; The Times Garden Project; Values on the new look in department stores; Family Life and the only child; Bridge, Chess and the prize crossword.

Can you always get your copy of The Times?

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Should National Trust properties have families living in them? Roger Scruton thinks the answer is definitely yes, and is horrified by stately homes which contain only furniture and the ghosts of families past. He might be amazed to learn that he has an ally within the NT itself, in the shape of the family planning officer, Martin Sibling.

"I'm not your actual run-of-the-mill family planning person," says Martin, whose previous job was as a celebrity consultant with Madame Tussaud's. "Most family planning people are trying to prevent families - my aim is to encourage them. In fact, I won't be happy until each and every National Trust property has the requisite set of residents installed."

The first experiment took place a year ago at March Madness, a country house near Gloucester which was given to the NT in 1978 and has lain empty ever since, except for visitors. Martin decided that it needed something melodramatic to bring it back to life, so he assembled a family consisting of one drunken admiral, one long-suffering wife, one secret lover and two children, one of whom wants to run away with the gypsies. He says that their success was immediate.

"When visitors were going round the house, they would be

electrified by the sound of the admiral bursting through the front door and shouting: 'I'm home from Madagascar, dear - where are you?' The lover would then rush down the staircase and escape, not fully clothed, while the children would throw themselves at father and beg him not to hurt the mother, after which he would pursue her from room to room without ever catching her."

"Well, of course, the public loved this - it somehow seemed to bring a breath of Georgian life back to the old place. It wasn't a real family of course, just actors hired for the season, but then I often think that real families can be very disappointing, don't you? Anyway, we're spreading the idea fast. We have put a very exciting family in a castle in Somerset, including a mad grandmother and a father who insults visitors, as well as a family in a manor house in Hampshire who haven't been speaking to each other for generations and ask the visitors to take notes to the other members of the family. This way, the visitors really feel involved."

Each family has six weeks basic training, in motivation and in table manners, and then they move in. Most of them are unemployed actors who are prepared to work for little more than board and lodging, and

although they have never met each other before, they form a family unit very quickly.

"Too quickly, sometimes," says Martin. "One of the daughters living at a National Trust property in Kent has become pregnant and we're not sure who by. It might even be by one of the visitors. But that's English country family life for you."

I was privileged yesterday to join a party of visitors going round Easter Rabbits, a lovely manor house in East Anglia, where every day the eldest son has a terrific argument with father, after which he strides from the house, shouting: 'I am going to London - you will never see me again!' and leaps into a waiting hired car. I could tell that most of the visitors, cowering in the front hall as this took place, believed they were watching a genuine event. One lady I talked to thought it was better than television."

"I've been to the house five times now," she told me, "and each time I've been lucky enough to catch this scene. It's wonderful. I think the National Trust is better than the Thorns Birds."

Martin Sibling confirms that takings have shot up at houses which now have families installed and sees it as the trend of the future.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Providing instant families to the manor born

"Tell your friend Scruton to come and have a look," he says. I think he'd love what we're doing. Perhaps he would like to join a family for a season. We always need opinionated young men - they get people's backs up so wonderfully. Just tell him to get in touch with me."

I promised and left, just as an eighteenth-century plate was wheeled past my head and a voice cried: "Never darken this threshold again, you black-hearted young puppy!"

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 287)

ACROSS
1 British (7)
5 Poetry (5)
8 Not me (3)
9 S American liberator (7)
10 Reasoned argument (5)
11 WW II machine gun (4)
12 Medicine dispenser (7)
14 Book classifier (13)
15 Scrutinise closely (7)
16 Former Persia (4)
18 Temporary ceasefire (5)
22 Rustproof metal (7)
23 Modifier (3)
24 Writing tables (5)
25 Play jokes (7)

DOWN
1 Infant (4)
2 Of sun (5)
3 Resourcefulness (13)
4 Song words (5)
5 Openness to hurt (3)
6 Mischiefous (7)
7 And the rest (8)
13 Done away with (8)
15 W Pyrenean people (7)
17 Short journeys (5)
19 Inner personality (5)
20 Murderous frenzy (4)

SOLUTION To No 286
ACROSS: 1 Thrush 5 Swift 8 UHT 9 Slalom 10 Cranny 11 Root 12 Rheostat 14 Incomunicable 17 Trepass 19 Avar 21 Geisha 23 Rustful 24 Cru 25 Myrtle 26 Mitten
DOWN: 1 Halo 3 Ablutions 4 Humdrum 5 Stove 6 Run 7 Forward 13 Sacrament 15 Nursery 16 Nostrum 18 Apace 20 Eud 22 Set

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FRIDAY PAGE

Diana Geddes meets an Iranian business man whose family experienced the terror of Khomeini's rule

Life in the graveyard

His old peasant face was gentle and strangely unmarked by the physical and psychological ordeals he had undergone since the Ayatollah Khomeini's guards had burst into his house nearly three years ago. He had seen his wife and five children, the youngest only seven, beaten until blood streamed from their bodies. He had seen his oldest son tortured beyond recognition before being executed. His daughter had been sentenced to life imprisonment. He himself had been imprisoned and tortured, but had escaped after two and a half years, and now had come to Paris via Pakistan "to tell the world the truth about Khomeini".

Hassan Jabbar-Zaré was born of poor parents in Esfahan 58 years ago. He left school after completing his primary education, and gradually built up a highly successful business in the city's bazaar, at first selling sweets and heating oil, then buying a petrol station, and later acquiring a farm outside Esfahan.

"I hated the Shah and his dictatorial regime," he said, speaking through an interpreter. "When the revolution came five years ago, I and my sons immediately responded, organizing rallies, selling newspapers, and writing anti-Shah slogans on walls. Everyone looked to Khomeini for salvation. But they soon discovered that he was a wolf hiding behind a sheep's mask."

"Khomeini is a swine, he has changed Iran into a place of sorrow and grief. He has done nothing positive for the people. He is only concerned with his own power and status, and will do anything to keep that. He is the biggest tyrant Iran has ever seen. Going from the Shah to

Khomeini was like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. The Shah executed political opponents, but Khomeini executes children for possessing the "wrong" kind of newspaper. His regime is far more brutal than the of the Shah. He has turned Iran into a graveyard."

His son, Ali, aged 17 and still at school, was the first to sense the disillusionment and join the Mujaheddin opposition against Khomeini. Amir, Ali's 15-year-old brother, followed suit, and the two soon persuaded their father to help the cause. He sold his house and garage and gave the proceeds amounting to about £150,000 to the Mujaheddin. The two boys distributed Mujaheddin newspapers after school.

On June 20, 1981, the repression against the Mujaheddin movement began. Less than a fortnight later, Khomeini's guards charged into the Jabbar-Zaré house, dragging the sleeping family from their beds, hitting them in the stomach and over the head with their rifle butts and locking the father and the two eldest boys into the excruciatingly painful, so-called "balancing" handcuffs, breaking some of the father's bones as they wrenched one arm over his shoulder, forcing it down to meet the other arm twisted behind his back.

"We were taken blindfolded in trucks to the guards' headquarters and thrown into a courtyard where we lay bleeding and still handcuffed.



Fear on the faces of escaped Iranian prisoners, Hassan Jabbar-Zaré and a friend

We could hear the screams of women being tortured in cells near by. We were to wait ten days until our interrogation and torture began. They beat us spread-eagled on the floor with inch-thick electric cables. They tied us to chairs, and beat the soles of our feet until the rope ate into the flesh. More than two years later, I still have trouble walking. My son Ali used to say: 'My father is too old. Hit me instead of him!'

"They wanted information about the Mujaheddin - names and addresses. They didn't believe that I knew nothing. I was finally taken back to the cells, but after a few days

I was brought out again, this time for psychological torture. I was tied blindfolded to a tree and told 'I was to be executed, but when they opened fire, the bullets hit the tree around me. Three times that happened. They told me that Ali had denounced the Mujaheddin and had joined Khomeini, and that it was he who was firing at me. I later learned that they told him the same about me when he was undergoing mock executions."

"When they realized I couldn't, or wouldn't, say anything, they threw me down on the ground, beat me again and then trampled over my

body. When I asked why they were doing such things, they hit me in the face, knocking out my teeth, and then jabbed a metal hook into my neck and dragged me along the ground until I lost consciousness. I came to a day, later in a pool of blood."

One day he was taken into the courtyard again and left alone, blindfolded as usual. "I heard a faint whimper and went towards the noise. Squinting under the blindfold, I could see a figure hanging by his hands from a tree. It was my son but I hardly recognized him, so horribly had he been tortured." Hassan's

voice broke and tears welled up in his eyes as his face crumpled in pain. It was the last time Hassan saw his son. His execution, along with 54 others in the same prison, including a 12-year-old boy, was announced on September 17, 1981. The official death toll by execution under Khomeini's regime is 8,000, but the Mujaheddin leaders in Paris estimate the real figure is nearer 40,000.

Soon after his son's death, Hassan was moved to another prison, given a summary trial and sentenced to life imprisonment, later reduced to 10 years. But his health had deteriorated so badly that he was eventually allowed to go to a hospital for treatment. It was from there that the Mujaheddin arranged for his escape last November.

He said he had been struck on leaving prison by the tremendous growth in opposition to the Khomeini regime and the increasing willingness for people to bring that opposition out into the open.

"People are nearing boiling point. Everywhere they are turning against Khomeini. Before he died, my son Ali said that I should try to escape and explain to the world that innocent people were being killed by Khomeini, but that his regime would not last because our people would win."

Hassan himself did not sound altogether convinced. "My daughter is still in prison," he added suddenly. "Her sentence has been reduced to five years, but I am worried. She has got a kidney trouble. Please explain in your article that she is innocent, that she was never involved with the Mujaheddin."

TALKBACK

It's tough in town

From Yvonne Steadnass, 72 Poplar Way, Midhurst, West Sussex.

I find it difficult to reconcile the actuality of living in cities with the exciting, pulsing life that Penny Perick would have us believe. So life is tough in converted homes in South Ken? Ask the mums in a tower block in Southwark what they feel about scampering up and down the stairs, when the lifts have been vandalized (again). No need for suburban car pools and round-the-clock chauffeurs? Doesn't parenthood involve a commitment to the children for those few short years before they leave home, be it in the city, downtown Kingston or even Midhurst? Country kids watch too much television? No, townies transplanted from their concrete fields for the odd weekend do.

If Ms Perick really wants to stem the flow of families to the country and the merging of inner city primary schools (isn't that caused by falling birth rates nationwide?) shouldn't she campaign to close down the poverty stricken city boroughs, and allow everyone to live in the congenial surroundings of South Kensington, or better still Chelsea? At least the children would be able to "loiter" safely there without fear of mugging, in between nipping round to "the bright lights". Or better still, let her write intelligent articles on the mess that local government officials are making of life in the inner city boroughs.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The curses of a restrained age

Peggy Ashcroft's portrayal of Barbie in *The Jewel in the Crown* (right) was given authentic medical detail when the hitherto devout and refined missionary, recovering from pneumonia and head injury, addressed her attendant nun in the language of a Caterick drill sergeant. Uncharacteristic swearing is a comparatively common but tragic symptom of the loss of inhibitions which sometimes accompanies senile dementia; often it strikes the most unlikely patient, so that, before suitable tranquilizers were available, most psychogeriatric wards seemed to house a parson's wife who, freed of a lifetime of restraint, talked the salty language of the docks in the accents of the vicarage tea party.

Unexpected swearing is not always a symptom of dementia, it also occurs in some schizophrenic patients and in a rare psychiatric condition, the Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome; this



usually starts in childhood or early adolescence. The syndrome has three groups of symptoms: the patient, often otherwise intelligent, suffers from periodic involuntary limb and facial movements, tics, he shouts obscenities and swears compulsively, coprolalia; and copies crudely the gestures of people near him, echopraxia.

Forty years ago, as Barbie battled to maintain her standards in the changing world of the Raj, the adolescents of Norfolk were being kept on tenterhooks at parties as they waited to see whether the son of a strict, but grand parson, would embarrass his family with his curses and inappropriate gestures. His tolerant contemporaries did not know that he was suffering from the Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome, but did realize that there was in his behaviour, as in poor Barbie's, an element of subconscious rebellion against the demands of society.

Victory over shyness

Many of the press reviews of last week's premiere of *Champions* commented on the number of the audience who cried as they watched Bob Champion's determination to survive cancer and win the National. Neither victory would have been possible without the medical scientists whose battle to find a means of early diagnosis and treatment has so radically altered the outlook for patients with some types of testicular tumour.

The frank way in which Bob Champion discusses his case in the film, should, as well as encouraging those already having treatment, also reassure those who hesitate about reporting a change in size of their testes to the doctor.

Recent advances in chemotherapy and radiotherapy, spearheaded by the National Institute of Cancer Research, at the Royal Marsden and Charing Cross Hospitals, mean that many types of testicular tumour which are the commonest cancerous growths affecting young men can now be treated. The percentage successfully treated would be further increased if patients would overcome their shyness and seek an early medical opinion.



Bob Champion: the winner

The nature of these swellings can now be initially explored by painless ultrasound, as well as by checking the blood, and if necessary, spinal fluid for chemicals, the human chorionic gonadotrophin and the alpha fetoproteins, produced by some malignant growths.

These measures, in the opinion of a recent paper published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, are now essential in all cases when young men have a testicular swelling, or a hydrocele - a collection of fluid around the testes - unless a benign diagnosis is absolutely certain.

Watch the birdie

Whatever nostalgic thoughts may be conjured up by the call of the seagulls on Roy Plomley's desert island his castaways would be well advised, if they want to stay healthy while awaiting rescue, to keep their food supplies away from the gulls. Ten per cent are carriers of food-poisoning germs of the salmonella group. As salmonella is not heat-resistant the shipwrecked mariner could eat the gulls' eggs, provided that they were boiled for at least 10 minutes.

Although pictures of seagulls following the plough or in the wake of a trawler give a romantic image, they are as likely to be scavengers on local

rubbish tips as companions to deep sea fishermen. Their numbers, which had been growing, have recently been controlled by epidemics caused by anaerobic organisms which have grown in the putrefying waste thrown out in airtight black refuse bags.

Recent reports suggest that the birds pick up the salmonella from human sewage washed up on the beach, spread it to farm livestock by roosting on hen-houses and other farm buildings and from this source to humans.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

The symbol of Mencap, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, was used in error to accompany a Medical Briefing item last week.

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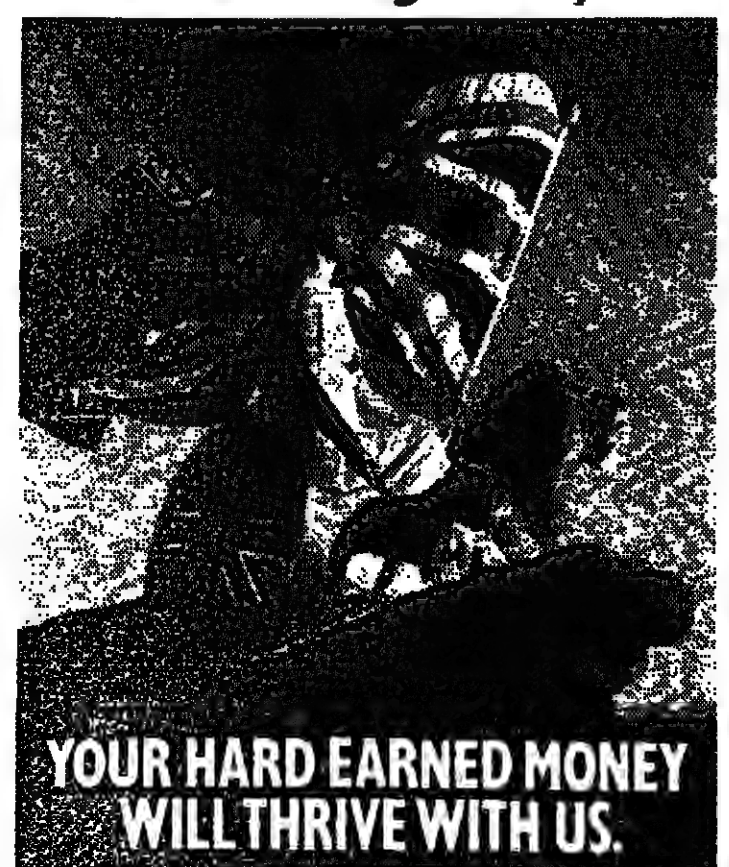
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YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY WILL THRIVE WITH US.

THE TIMES DIARY

Simply harrowing

Eton College was attacked yesterday over the alleged run-down condition of blocks of flats which it owns in Swiss Cottage, north-west London, and for big rent increases. A "Tenants of Eton College" action group has been formed to pursue complaints of neglect and to challenge the rents, which, I am told, in some cases have doubled over the past year. Caroline Harrison, a worker with Camden Private Tenants' Federation, which helped organize the group's inaugural meeting, accused Eton of failing to invest in the upkeep of the blocks. "There are many serious problems and a lot of squalid properties," Eton's bursar, Richard Symes Thompson, denied the allegations, claiming that the Labour-controlled Camden council was behind the uproar on the Eton estates. "The initiative for this group did not come from the tenants; it came from the federation, which is financed by the council." Undeterred, the tenants plan further action.

Fare exchange

The cold war of words between CND and Lady Olga Maitland's Women and Families for Defence is heating up. The latest issue of CND's *Savily* magazine chides Lady Olga for charging £86 expenses for a trip to debate the nuclear question with a CND group in Wigan. "What do they expect me to do, take the bus?" asked Lady Olga, who travelled by rail first class. "Anyway, when one of the Greenham women came to talk at one of our meetings in Southampton, she charged us for the taxi fare there and back."

Smoke screen

As the Swedish Navy continues to plumb the depths of Karlskrona Bay in search of the mystery frogmen, a rare display of Red humour bobbed to the surface. Slotted between the end of Radio Poland's English language news bulletin to Scandinavia and the start of a regular Chopin call sign, was an unexplained blast of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes".

BARRY FANTONI



Jewel in the chair

Norman Stone, the Hitler expert who was drafted in by *The Sunday Times* last year to detail the inconsistencies of the forged Fuhrer diaries, has been appointed to the chair of modern history at Worcester College, Oxford, succeeding Richard Cobb.

Stone, a fellow at Trinity, Cambridge, angered many fellow historians in 1980 with his Hitler biography, which emerged disrespectful of convention. "Hitler was not born poor; he was never a house-painter; he fought very courageously in the First World War. He did not 'seize' power in 1933, but obtained it by means that were at least as constitutional as those that had kept his three predecessors in office," wrote Stone. The "incurably clever" Scot caused further controversy last year with *Europe Transformed 1878-1919* with its bold speculation and robust contempt for foreigners. Yesterday Stone, who is said to have an "almost Gibbonian sense of irony," told me: "Modern history is much bigger business in Oxford than it is in Cambridge... I won't be leaving the chair for the next 25 years, unless I roll off it in drink."

Crash course

A foreigner drove his turbo Porsche into the Savoy courtyard one day this week and asked the doorman to park it. The obliging fellow got in, turned on the engine, and drove it straight through the hotel's swing doors. As scaffolding was being erected, all became clear yesterday. The client is disabled, and the pedals had been specially transposed.

● It seems the sun never did set on the Empire out in East London. Estate agents A. Prevost and Partners of Mile End Road are currently offering for sale a one-bedroom flat "in popular Victorian 1930s block".

Bags not us

Staff shortages at the British Museum have forced it to stop baggage searches - only a month after the seventeenth century Ottoman portrait was cut from its frame, and pocketed. The sin by sin painting has still not been recovered. One of the museum's regular visitors said yesterday the decision was "utterly irresponsible; for what more obvious target for those who hate British culture than its temple?" The British Museum said that if the security cutback was reintroduced "to stop the inevitable hoaxes and nutters who try to draw attention to themselves".

Nicholas Ashford follows Senator Gary Hart's meteoric take-off



The several faces of Hart: above, the dedicated new ideas man and the ever-youthful Kennedy reincarnation. Right, scotching success with his wife Lee. Below, the shoe-string senator after a hard day on the stump



From minibus to bandwagon

Birmingham, Alabama. There was standing room only on the press bus accompanying Senator Gary Hart as he blitzed his way around the deep south this week. In fact, by the time he reached Huntsville, in northern Alabama, on Wednesday, so many journalists had joined the Hart bandwagon that the senator's supporters had to transport the overflow in their own cars.

If political success is measured by media attention - and in US presidential campaigns virtually everything a candidate says or does is with television cameras in mind - then Hart's late-firing bid for the Democratic nomination has turned into a dazzling tour de force.

Since his hat-trick of victories in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, Hart's crazy good looks have dominated news, magazine covers and newspaper front pages. "Hart attack," "Hart breaker," "Hart stopper," clamour headlines above stories about Hart's astonishing successes and the shattering of Walter Mondale's aura of invincibility.

No longer is Hart portrayed as the handsome but oh-so-dull-and-earnest Senator from Colorado with his carefully-cut crop of hair and his sober blue suit. All of a sudden he is seen in checked shirt and red braces taking part in an axe-throwing contest, in shirtsleeves cracking open a bottle of champagne after his New Hampshire victory, or sporting a Tampa "Strawberry Festival" T-shirt handing around a basket of fruit to the accompanying pack of press men.

In just two weeks, Hart has gained what Mondale failed to achieve after three years of hard labour and heavy investment - momentum and media attention, the two most precious commodities in an American presidential election.

Hart's shoe-string organization is still a shambles. His coffers remain bare despite a sudden influx of donations following his New Hampshire success. But for the time being these are minor inconveniences compared with the media roller-coaster on which he is now riding and which many political observers

believe may sweep him to victory at the Democratic Party's nominating convention in July.

Before that, however, he faces the toughest test of all on Tuesday, when nine states hold primaries and caucuses to select over 600 delegates to the Democratic convention. Three of these, Florida, Georgia and Alabama, are in the south, an area where Hart was virtually unknown until two weeks ago and which he had largely ignored.

But no longer. Large crowds turn out to see "Gary the giant-killer" wherever he goes. In Huntsville, where his campaign office opened its doors only three days ago, 300 people applauded his arrival. Fewer than 50 turned out to see Mondale, who had visited the town a few hours earlier.

"I was going to support Mondale, but now I'm for Hart," said Richard Tvali, after hearing Hart address students at Birmingham Southern College. "I like his electricity. Mondale can't beat Reagan. Hart can."

A week is a long time in politics. As Harold Wilson once said. A month can be eternity. At the beginning of February, during a campaign swing through New Hampshire, I caught up with Hart at a restaurant in the seaside town of Portsmouth. He was billed to give a press conference. But his 10-strong secret service entourage outnumbered the press by two to one. No one then seemed very interested in Gary Hart or his "New Ideas". The American media had already decided Mondale's appointment as Democratic nominee, and Hart was seen as making a trial run for a more serious presidential effort in 1988.

Two weeks later I spent a day travelling with him around Iowa, on the eve of that state's caucuses. For the first time, his staff had chartered a plane to enable him to make as many campaign stops as possible before voting started. It was small (16 seats, four of which were empty) compared with the 100-plus seater being used by Mondale and Senator John Glenn, and two American journalists had to put down the money for a deposit because Hart's

campaign staff did not have sufficient funds.

Nevertheless, Hart's switch to air transport (he had previously used a van, dubbed "air van one") was a signal that his campaign was beginning to take off.

The press and public started to pay attention to Hart after he finished second in Iowa. By the time he reached New Hampshire a week later for some last-minute campaigning, he could hardly walk down the main street of Manchester because of the elbowing crowd of pressmen who surrounded him.

Hart had suddenly become "a phenomenon". He has now joined the big league. He has a 727 jet on long-term charter and a regular press accompaniment of around 70, which this week expanded to well over 100 as interest in the race took root.

Everything he now says or does is filmed, recorded, noted down.

Hart's campaign staff have valiantly tried to cope with this explosion of interest in their candidate. New phones have been installed at campaign headquarters above a cinema in one of the seedier parts of Washington, but they are woefully inadequate to deal with the pledges of money and support now flooding in.

More staff are being hired. But for the moment, Hart's immediate entourage consists only of his press secretary, Kathy Bushkin, and two trip organizers, occasionally reinforced by campaign manager Oliver "Pudge" Henkel, and the reputed Swedish behind Hart's success, pollster Patrick Caddell.

Success has induced a subtle but significant change in the 47-year-old senator from Colorado. His past reputation was of a coldly intellectual technician, an ersatz Kennedy but with none of the former president's eloquence or passion.

"Success liberates emotion," he commented recently. It has also freed a sense of humour which sides almost always existed, but until now has remained well hidden. When his voice choked with emotion while addressing supporters after his New Hampshire victory, he joked: "I'd better not go on. I might lose my

cold and aloof image, and we don't want that."

Success has made Hart more self-confident, less awkward, more relaxed. His speeches are more assured. Often punctuated with extemporized jokes, his responses to questions are brief and to the point. He easily repels the poison darts now being hurled at him by Mondale, taking care not to respond in kind.

In last Sunday's edition of the David Brinkley current affairs programme on ABC TV, it was Hart who appeared presidential and Mondale who looked like an alien. In a television age when image is what matters most, Mondale's carefully-nurtured impression of his own invincibility has been shattered by Hart, probably beyond repair.

Kennedy's mantle is now beginning to fit more snugly around his shoulders. He looks the part, frequently using Kennedy mannerisms. He sounds it, too. He recently started a speech with a phrase taken from Kennedy's inaugural - "The torch has been passed to a new generation..."

Although his performance has improved, his basic message remains the same as it has been since he launched his campaign a year ago: old versus new. "We need a new generation of leadership with new ideas," he intones at every school, airport and shopping arcade he stops at. Sometimes he elaborates on his ideas for industrial policy, military reform, education or arms control. They are not particularly new, but that is not the point. What he is trying to do, and succeeding, is to portray both President Reagan and Mondale as leaders of a generation whose time has gone. He is the standard bearer of the generation that was still reaching maturity during the trauma of Vietnam and Watergate. Their time has come.

Whether it has or not remains to be seen. But the motto of the army training school in Huntsville, which Hart visited on Wednesday, seemed appropriately prophetic: "Follow me thru the threshold to the future." Hart is at that threshold.

David Watt

Nato: squaring up to the realities

The necessity of having to say something about Nato seems to bring out the worst in politicians and pundits. Either they resort to heretage and shared values - variety or they go into a frenzy of doom and gloom about the erosion of western defences, the barbarian hordes at the gates and the necessity of a radical restructuring of the entire edifice.

The first strategy was exemplified by President Reagan in his thirty-fifth anniversary article on this page on Tuesday. A beautiful case of the second was Dr Henry Kissinger's largely preposterous article in a recent *Time* magazine.

On reading these articles one is driven to the conclusion that the most serious thing wrong with the alliance is in fact that no prominent political figure will get up to challenge these two stereotypes. Our democratic leaders seem unable to combine the two quite true propositions - first that the alliance really does have some fundamental problems to solve and secondly that it is actually in reasonably good shape.

The usual presumption is that people will lose confidence if you say the first, and that they will become complacent and refuse to be taxed for necessary defence expenditure if you say the second.

The truth is not really so difficult for ordinary voters on both sides of the Atlantic to grasp - or to accept - if only the politicians proceeded from some obvious basic positions:

1. We - that is both Europe and the US - need considerable conventional defences against a huge and rapidly increasing Soviet capability.

2. The US and Europe collectively need some nuclear capacity in order to hedge against the possibility of the Russians reneging on their pledge not to use nuclear weapons first. We also need some safeguard in case conventional defences break down in the face of these sudden and overwhelming conventional attacks.

3. There is a balance between the extent of our reliance on nuclear weapons and our willingness to depend on conventional weapons. In other words, if we can keep the Russians out by conventional means, we need nuclear weapons less; if we can't, we will need them more.

4. Much dispute exists as to whether the Soviet Union does have the capacity to launch an overwhelming conventional attack. Dr Kissinger and other Washington hawks say Nato's conventional forces, including five American and three British divisions, are hopelessly inadequate and we should therefore have to resort to first use of nuclear weapons rather early in a war. General Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander, says another 4 per cent on Nato defence budgets annually should enable us to hold the position. Other excellent authorities say that while a certain amount always can and should be done to modernize and improve Nato forces, it would even now be a highly risky proposition, from the Russian point of view, to attack them.

5. There is, and has been since 1949, some divergence of interest between Europe and America on how to defend against a Soviet conventional attack but on the whole this is less than it was. To oversimplify matters the logical

American order of preferences is (a) that the attack should be deterred by Soviet fears of nuclear annihilation; (b) if that fails, that the attack should be contained by conventional means but at least possible cost in American lives; and (c) if that, in turn, fails, nuclear exchanges on the battlefields of Europe should not escalate immediately to inter-continental level.

The first of these preferences has been undermined by the arrival of nuclear parity between the super powers, the last by the general admission that the Russians would probably escalate very fast after the nuclear threshold had been crossed. That puts a lot of American weight on the conventional option.

Europe has always agreed on the necessity for conventional forces to deter and fight a war, but has always wanted to avoid a costly conventional conflict, let alone a war with local nuclear weapons that would devastate Europe. The American nuclear deterrent is supposed to prevent this, but if it fails, the best kind of war for Europe is one in which the super powers exchange a nuclear fusillade over our heads. This now being implausible, our interests converge with the US upon the conventional option.

The morals to be drawn from all this seem to me reasonably clear and reasonably optimistic: first of all, it is an obvious aberration to stuff western Europe full of theatre nuclear weapons. There is no real advantage in it for anyone.

Second, it is obviously in everyone's interest to increase expenditure on conventional forces to the point at which we can be reasonably confident of avoiding being overrun without recourse to nuclear weapons. Perhaps we are at this point already, perhaps not. But in any case we need a much franker examination of the Soviet threat than any so far vouchsafed to public opinion and a much better transatlantic consensus on the subject than has so far been achieved.

Third, if this expenditure is to be undertaken it must be an integrated exercise. It is unrealistic to talk of a nice division of labour - Europe taking responsibility for conventional defence, America taking a responsibility for care of the nuclear side.

The Americans are too heavily committed in Europe for them to afford to lose control of events at the conventional level; to do so would be to risk control on the nuclear level as well. A serious withdrawal of American troops if the Europeans do not come up to scratch would simply lower the nuclear threshold to the American disadvantage, and the threat - implied, for instance, in Dr Kissinger's article - is an empty one.

Finally the difficulties of the West do not really proceed from a divergence of ultimate aims between the two sides of the Atlantic. We all want to keep the Russians out as surely - but also as cheaply - as possible. If "neutrality" means wanting something else, there is remarkably little realism in Europe. What we are really arguing about is money and perceptions of security. It is the business (and it is supposed to be the skill) of politicians to see that the first is negotiated. And that the second converges from both sides upon reality.

Philip Howard

Six golden rules for the lit crit bit

From the Literary Editor

My dear Oliver, Thank you for sending me your unsolicited review. You are not wrong in your supposition that I receive quite a lot of such things. A complete drawer in my filing cabinet is full of solicitations from would-be reviewers, couched in every style from the peremptory to the servile, and of photocopies of their cuttings. On days when I am feeling strong I browse through them, and murmur: "O wad Pow'r the giftie us to read ourselves as others read us." On occasions I have found a good new reviewer unsolicited out of the post, but not often, not often.

How crafty of you to have got hold of so early an advance copy of the new Freddy Forsyth. I am glad that you are enthusiastic about it. You are not related to him, are you? Forgive me for asking. But one of the functions of literary editors is to have books reviewed without spite or favour. We have to try to keep the log-rolling by friends and acquaintances out of the Books Page. Consequently, we have to resist the hype of publishers, the network of agents, the counterproductive gulf of publicity agents (they always omit from the tidal wave of hyperbole such crucial facts as the publication date of the book), the blandishments of colleagues, the reproachful looks of friends, and even, dear boy, the flattery of nephews.

I am delighted to hear that you are thinking of a career in literary journalism. It is a good life, and important work. You ask for advice. Here is some, given like a Dutch Uncle.

1. Next time you write a review, do borrow a typewriter. As things go these days, you have an elegant, and in parts legible, hand. But it takes more time to read than a typescript. I had to part regrettably with one of the most foremost philosophers of our generation as a reviewer because I could not afford the day's work required to decipher the Linear B of his handwriting, a palimpsest scrawled spikily on both sides of a page torn from an exercise book. He made even Angus Wilson's manuscript look plain sailing.

2. Do try to start each page with a new paragraph. With scissors and

Prittstick I am pretty good these days at sticking together articles in self-contained chunks suitable for the compositors. But it is not work for which I am suited by training or temperament.

3. I can see that the new Forsyth is a rattling good yarn. But are you sure that you are wise to give a complete blow-by-blow of the plot? I suspect that part of the attraction of the genre is suspense about what on earth is going to happen next. Your review leaves no stone unturned.

4. The converse fault to number 3 is for the reviewer not to have read the book at all, but to give us his or her opinions on the subject. I know that Sydney Smith is supposed to have said: "I never read a book before reviewing it. It prejudices one so." But only Sidney Smiths and other peacock reviewers can get away with that line. I have had to get rid of professional reviewers for dropping *The Times* into libel actions and corrections by demonstrably not having read a book to the end.

5. How long do you imagine your review is? I have not had time to do a word-count. But eight closely written foolscap pages cannot amount to fewer than 2,000 words. The lead review on *The Times* Books Page can seldom be more than 1,000 words long, alas. Study your market, dear boy. The impression that you have not taken the trouble to read your prospective employer gets you the opposite of the modern (and misunderstood, and rude) term, a Brownie point.

6. The primary purpose of book reviews in the serious press is not (contrary to the wistful belief of the trade) to sell books, or to act as a consumer service, admirable though both these purposes are. It is to engage in the national debate over the most important intellectual events of the week, the books that are published.

So, dear boy, this is what we call in the trade a rejection slip. I return your script, fantastic though it is. I also return your cuttings from the *College Chronicle*. They are jolly good. You must now concentrate on getting good grades in your O levels. I look forward to our next meeting. With love from your Dutch Uncle.

Despite the damage they cause, Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary (left), has recommended a cut in heavy lorries' tax liability. John Wardroper urges the Chancellor (right) to resist



Juggernauts: the faulty arithmetic Lawson must reject

Civil servants always like to puzzle their masters with what looks like science. Such terms as "PCU-kilometres" and "standard axes, average laden" mean little to Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, and still less to Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor. This is convenient for officials in Ridley's department who have put up proposals to reduce the tax liability of the vehicles they most favour, juggernaut lorries, by nearly £1,300 a year each.

These proposals have now been passed on, with Ridley's blessing, to Lawson, now working on his Budget sums.

The matter at issue is this: what share should class of vehicle pay of the money spent (about £3,200m this year) on building and maintaining the roads? The average car-owner pays in licence fee and fuel tax nearly three and a half times what he is estimated to get out of the roads. What of the greatest road-damager, the 32-ton lorry? Last year the Transport Department reckoned that it was falling short by £880. Over the past 10 years, by the department's reckoning, the tax shortfall of the whole fleet of 32-tonners has totalled (in current prices) well over £1,000m - a huge hidden subsidy.

The department is pledged to see that all classes of vehicle meet their "road track costs". The lorry operators' lobbies, the Freight

Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association, fearing a big tax rise for the 32-tonner, went to the civil servants and argued that it was in fact being charged too much. The civil servants produced a consultation paper (very narrowly circulated) that delighted the associations. It shifted £80m of costs from the 32-tonner on to cars and other vehicles.

According to Department of Transport methodology, most of the cost of building roads is allocated, for tax purposes, among vehicles according to their assumed effect in the traffic stream - their "passenger car unit" rating. Years ago the department ordained that the average lorry equalled two cars. ("One has to choose a figure," a drunk civil servant told me. "We plumped for two.") Starting from that average, the department extracted a precise-looking figure for the 32-ton lorry: 2.912. But now, by a mathematical process as yet undisclosed, it has found that a 32-tonner equals only 2.5 cars. That little

change cuts its tax liability by £110 a year.

Another adjustment is worth £1,150. The department says that as the average 32-tonner does little of its mileage on minor roads, it should pay a reduced share of their upkeep. Outside specialists challenge this. They say it ignores the fact that when a top-heavy lorry runs on thin minor roads it does much more damage, mile for mile.

The damaging effect of big lorries in the real world of shaky bridges and lane closures is, indeed, not fully reckoned throughout the cost calculations. The department bases its "damage factor" figures on what say their lorries are carrying. Lorry men, sitting in official questionnaires, do not confess to illegal overloads. The gap between fiction and reality can be large: if a lorry axle carries one ton over the legal limit it does nearly 50 per cent more damage.

The department has quantities of computerized figures on overload-

ing. Analysis of data from sites on the M1 and A2 has shown that the damage being done by 32-ton lorries was 77 per cent greater than what the department assumes for tax purposes. Yet the department says it cannot see how to count any sum whatever for overloading.

One proposal that would have added a little to the lorries' tax liability was that something should be included for the cost of accident - a move that has been urged for years. Lorries, which are involved annually in accidents that kill 900 people and injure thousands more, were to be made liable for a modest £8m. The Freight Transport Association objected. The department dropped the idea.

That puts accidents back in the same category as other uncalculated costs: noise, pollution, vibration, underground damage. But here Nicholas Ridley offers a hint for Nigel Lawson. He says the social and environmental costs of lorries "should be reflected by some margin between allocated road costs and tax rates, particularly for the heaviest vehicles".

So Lawson can maintain his revenue from the juggernauts by making that tax margin a healthy one; and then can press for something the Transport Department has so far resisted, an independent inquiry into its calculations.



HOW TO JUDGE THE BUDGET

Despite Mr Nigel Lawson's valiant attempts to convince us he believes Budgets should be boring, expectations are riding high for March 13. It has become increasingly clear that it will display Mr Lawson not just as a financial conservative, but also - on the tax side - as an economic radical. Judgment on the Budget must depend on how well he marries these two ambitions.

There will be three elements to this Budget, each of considerable importance. The most unusual will be the green paper on public spending, with a time-horizon in the 1990s. The second - running nearly to the end of the 1980s - will be the Government's new medium-term financial strategy. The third, with the shortest fuse of all, will be a set of tax changes for 1984-85.

It is already possible to trace the outlines of the first two. The green paper, it seems, will not be satisfactory. It will be neither a clear statement of government intentions, nor a sufficiently detailed breakdown of the longer-term trends in public spending to inform sensible argument about what those intentions should be. Only a cursory welcome would be due to such a reluctant effort to open up the debate on public spending plans, along with a request for greater effort in the future.

On the other hand, the new financial strategy - which will embrace the first half of the period covered by the green paper - is very much a statement of intent. Ever since the original strategy, unveiled by Sir Geoffrey Howe in 1980, began to fall apart, the Treasury's technique each year has been to make do and mend. Economic recovery

has now brought the Government back broadly on that 1980 track for public borrowing, inflation and even output - a fact of which Mr Lawson, much involved in the original strategy, will no doubt remind us on Tuesday.

But there is one critical respect in which the Government is not back on track, with implications for both his new strategy and his immediate tax plans. Unemployment is far higher than the Government ever envisaged in 1980, and the latest figures make it far from clear it is even now obeying the Treasury's predictions and leveling off. The other side of this coin is that those still in work are grabbing an excessive share of the rise in national income: earnings are still rising dangerously faster than prices. This pattern poses severe problems for Mr Lawson in projecting a new financial path to take Britain from 3 per cent inflation to something recognizable as real price stability, while at the same time allowing headroom for real economic growth.

Since he does not believe in trying to restrain private-sector wages directly, Mr Lawson's next step must be a further cut in public borrowing, starting with the coming year, to lend conviction to his new and rather imprecise monetary strategy. Fortunately, the economy seems now to be growing strongly enough to enable the Chancellor to finance this cut in borrowing out of buoyant tax revenue.

Mr Lawson should not, therefore, have to repeat the concealed failure of the past five years, which was to achieve a reduction in the real level of

public borrowing merely by ratcheting 'tax revenue up to close the gap with a rising total for public spending. But the rise in unemployment that kept public spending on the increase has mopped up the North Sea oil bonus that the Tories had hoped to use to finance tax cuts.

Thus Mr Lawson's reputation as a tax-reforming Chancellor cannot be based on the soft option of easy tax cuts all round. He is forced by his own strategy into the politically harder task of robbing Peter to pay Paul, striving for a fairer tax system in the certain knowledge that change is going to make some people worse off. That is neither impossible nor inequitable; but it needs a good deal of strategic planning to command acceptance, and the Chancellor's pre-Budget manoeuvres have caused some unease. That there are glaring distortions in our tax system, starting with the muddle of income tax and national insurance, which is compounded by a bizarre collection of personal tax reliefs, would be widely accepted. Special pleading by those financial institutions which have made a comfortable living in the nooks and crannies of the tax system should be ignored.

But the Chancellor must not embark on serious reform with a series of smash-and-grab raids that look like a mindless attempt to scrape together the money for one post-election hand-out - or like a desperate and uncaring attempt to keep his beloved financial strategy on course. His tax planning needs to be clear as his monetary intentions: a medium-term strategy, if you like, is needed here too.

ARMED NEUTRALITY

Confirmation that a British ship was crippled by an Iraqi missile in the Persian Gulf last week has given this country an unpleasant reminder that the war between Iraq and Iran is raging as fiercely as ever, and that its effects are becoming more and more difficult to confine to those two countries alone.

The Iraqi ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to hear a protest at his government's action and to be asked for his explanation. Some MPs would like the British Government to go further, threatening Iraq with retaliation if the incident is repeated and/or providing British merchant vessels trading with Iran with a British naval escort. Foreseeing this train of events, some people in the Royal Navy have been very unhappy about the Government's failure to protest publicly when it became known last year that France was lending Iraq Super-Elendard aircraft as a delivery system for its stock of Exocet missiles. Having suffered from this deadly combination, supplied by one of our principal allies and European partners, in the South Atlantic in 1982, the navy understandably does not relish having to confront it again in the Gulf in 1984.

The Government did indeed have grave misgivings about the Super-Elendard affair, and made them known quite forcefully, if politely, to the French. The French listened equally politely but decided to go ahead, considering that their overriding interest, and that of the West, lay in strengthening Iraq's self-confidence and enabling it to avoid defeat. Precisely what restrictions on the use of the aircraft they imposed on Iraq, if any,

remains a closely guarded secret. The heat-seeking missile that hit the *Charming* last week may not have been an Exocet, and if it was it was not necessarily fired from a Super-Elendard.

The danger of a British naval vessel being attacked again with these weapons is not, however, the only or even the best reason for Britain to avoid making this a *casus belli* with Iraq. For the answer which the Iraqi ambassador will have given to the Foreign Office is very easy to imagine. He will have pointed out that Iraq's own access to the Gulf has been blocked by Iran since the beginning of the war in 1980. No British ship has attempted to run this blockade, and no British naval escort has been offered to any merchant vessel that might do so. Now that Iraq is trying to impose a similar blockade on Iran, through attacks on neutral ships approaching Iranian ports, it would be an act of apparent partisanship, on the Iranian side, for Britain to use naval force to interfere.

Partisanship on the Iranian side might perhaps have been justified at the beginning of the war, when Iraq was clearly the aggressor. It could hardly be justified now that Iranian troops are fighting on Iraqi soil. While Ayatollah Khomeini rejects any peace proposal that does not include the deposition of the Iraqi President, whatever one thinks of President Saddam Hussein - and this newspaper has had plenty of harsh things to say about him in the past - there can be no reason why Britain should give even indirect help to the Ayatollah in his attempt to impose on Iraq the kind of regime described on page 11 of this

issue: a regime which even the Secretary-General of the United Nations, normally constrained to reticence about the internal affairs of member-states, has called to account for its violations of human rights.

There is of course the fear that, if Iraq succeeds in imposing a blockade on Iranian ports, Iran will carry out its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz - in which case naval action by outside powers will become necessary in any case. But that is not an argument for taking naval action against Iraq now, for two reasons. First, it is far from certain that Iraq will succeed in its blockade, and it is not clear as yet that Iraq is even attempting seriously to interdict Iranian oil exports. The latest attacks have not been on oil tankers but on ships bringing Iranian imports.

Secondly, there would be much stronger justification for resisting any Iranian attempt to interfere with the shipping of non-belligerent states - which is what closure of the Strait would be - than for resisting an Iraqi attempt to interfere with shipping bound for Iran, which is unquestionably a belligerent. If naval action to thwart a blockade of Iran is seriously considered, then it should be undertaken to break the blockade of Iraq as well, in other words to impose a ceasefire in the Gulf and allow free passage through it for the trade of both parties to the war. That is something which could perhaps be undertaken by a UN force, as suggested yesterday by Dr David Owen, or by an Anglo-American force as the prime minister implied. It is certainly not something Britain could undertake alone.

THE NOBLE ART OF BRAIN DAMAGE

Boxing has a long history often invested with glamour. It is seen as a trial of courage and strength, a producer of heroes, a ritualization of the combats by which mankind has developed. It has enabled a few exceptional individuals to escape from poverty and racial discrimination and rise to wealth and fame. It is held to have practical value in developing character and skill in self-defence. It is enjoyed by many spectators. And it earns a lot of money for some businessmen.

Yet boxing is the only sport which consists in the trading of blows. Injury is common in other sports but it is incidental to the main purpose of the sport. Either it is accidental or, if deliberately inflicted, against the rules. Only in boxing is it legitimate, even praiseworthy, to hurt someone on purpose. This is why it is put in a moral category of its own and why so many people wish to ban it, even though the numbers at risk are small.

The British Medical Association has now provided a great deal more ammunition for those

who have been arguing for years that boxing is more dangerous than is usually assumed. New research assisted by modern scanning machines shows that damage from repeated blows on the head is cumulative and normally irreversible. Even mild concussion can cause small amounts of permanent structural damage. Each subsequent blow increases the damage, which can now be detected long before it manifests itself in outward symptoms, such as slurred speech, uncoordinated movements, and more acute neurological disorders. Amateurs are as much at risk as professionals. What matters is not the number of knockouts, or even necessarily the strength of the blows, but the number of blows and the direction in which they drive the head.

For many people this will be all the evidence they need to prove that boxing should be banned, but this would be an unwarranted interference with individual liberty. It is perfectly legal to damage oneself with legal to damage oneself with alcohol, nicotine and other permitted drugs. It is even legal

to commit suicide. Boxing is voluntary for those who receive the damage as well as for those who inflict it. If people wish to damage their brains it is not the business of the state to intervene. There was a good case for making people wear seat belts in cars because of the very large number of injuries that could be avoided and the significant savings that could be made in caring for the injured. Boxers are a small minority of consenting adults who do no one else much harm if they wish to addle their brains.

However, there are two aspects on which the state ought to act. First, it should ensure that boxers are fully aware of the damage they are doing to themselves. A serious health warning should be attached to boxing as to cigarettes. The BMA suggests that boxers should sign a form of informed consent similar to that given to patients prior to major brain surgery. This is well worth considering. In addition boxing, like alcohol, should be banned in schools and among all minors, who cannot be expected to weigh up the risks for themselves.

Head teachers on probation

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers

Sir, Last Friday (March 2) you published letters from three members or ex-members of the teaching profession, two of whom supported Sir Keith Joseph's proposals for a probationary period for head teachers on first appointments.

The two teachers who supported Sir Keith's ideas seem to think that this proposal would have widespread support amongst members of the teaching profession, though one wonders whether they would be quite so keen if it was suggested that deputy heads, senior teachers and heads of departments were the subject of similar probationary periods.

The National Association's opposition to Sir Keith's ideas is not based on self-interest, as one of your correspondents alleges. We oppose these ideas because we believe them to be unworkable and unnecessary, for the following reasons:

1. Newly-appointed heads are unlikely to uproot themselves and, where relevant, their families and move to a new appointment knowing that they were subject to a probationary period.
2. Sir Keith has stated that, if they fail the probationary period, their new employer could find them another senior post. I regard this as very unrealistic, not only because they would be "tainted" with the reputation of having failed probation, but the senior posts are just not available in the present financial circumstances, faced by the vast majority of local education authorities.
3. The sort of lack of competence which we are all concerned about does not necessarily become evident in the first two years. Indeed, from my own personal knowledge of quite a large number of cases which I have dealt with over a number of years, I can safely say that the heads in difficulty in terms of managing schools have not intended to resign after they have been in post for some years.
4. It is by no means uncommon for a head to be appointed and given the job of changing essential aspects of the policies pursued by his/her predecessor. I believe very strongly that a probationary period would stifle initiative and introduce an undesirable "conservative" attitude during those crucial early years.
5. Finally, I do think it is almost insulting for people to suggest that, if a teacher has reached a senior position in the profession and is then appointed to a headship, he/she should then be put on probation. Which senior members of other professions are put on probation?

Yours faithfully,
D. M. HART, General Secretary,
The National Association of Head Teachers,
Holly House,
6 Peddie Road,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
March 6.

Organ transplants

From Dr A. H. B. de Bono

Sir, Mr Le Vay is quite right to point out (March 5) that, as at present conceived, organ transplants may be a transitory surgical phenomenon. Having spent a number of years, over 20 years ago, working out some of the technical details, I realise that by the time the crucial biological problem was effectively solved this knowledge would itself contribute to the control of the very disease processes that today lead to organ failure. Obviously there are exceptions.

However at the present time there are situations where, however imperfect, transplants are useful; and as a spin-off the development of new anti-rejection techniques and continuing research into immune processes which clearly have a far wider application and significance, than is generated by the "glamorous" transplant programme is clearly beneficial.

I doubt very much whether, in fact, the money saved by abolishing the transplant programme would go into funding the molecular biology research; it would probably end up in part of a missile or a few yards of crumbling motorway.

Yours truly,
A. H. B. DE BONO,
Manor Farm,
Kirklington, Oxford,
March 5.

Tom Keating as faker

From Mr F. E. McWilliam

Sir, If some people do not share Mr Milligan's enthusiasm for Tom Keating (March 5), it may be because they realize that the faker diminishes the reputation of the artist whose work he fakes.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. McWILLIAM,
84 Holland Villas Road, W14,
March 5.

Looking after staff

From Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds (Conservative)

Sir, - The eventual outcome of the GCHQ affair seems likely to be the establishment of a staff association, but the Government, which has proposed this, has so far given few details of what it has in mind.

May I suggest that ministers examine the background that led to a legal ban on the police joining a trade union, and that they discuss with the staff at Cheltenham, and perhaps elsewhere in our security and intelligence-gathering services, the advantages of setting up an organization along the lines of the Police Federation.

The federation by law represents the interests of policemen up to and including the rank of chief inspector in all matters of their welfare and efficiency. It negotiates police pay, rent allowances and pensions, helps

Unrepentant about the economy

From Professor F. H. Hahn, FBA, and Professor R. M. Solow, FBA

Sir, We have joined forces in commenting on Lord Bruce-Gardyne's piece (March 7) although only one of us (Hahn) was one of the 364 (the other being safely at MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Since the letter was written unemployment has increased by almost one million and when oil is excluded GDP is still below the level it was in 1979. The non-oil trade balance is almost £8bn in the red (and oil production is now at its peak). None of these events has led to claims that "we told you so" and the present modest upturn does not seem to warrant any comment either.

The original statement did not claim that there would never be another upturn. Industrial economies have fluctuated for a century and a half and no doubt they will continue to do so. The claim was: "there is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment."

We see no grounds for a change of mind. There is no good reason to think that the current upturn, such

as it is, is the automatic response to the reduction of inflation. There are many more sensible ways to account for it, some of which Lord Bruce-Gardyne mentions in his artless way and some of which - like an end to de-stocking - he does not.

It is unknown and perhaps unknowable whether the recovery will gather strength and continue. If Lord Bruce-Gardyne is so anxious to claim credit for it now, which is a little bit like taking credit for a sunny day, he will no doubt be equally glad to accept responsibility for the five years during which Government policy did, as we said, "deepen the depression, erode the industrial base of the country and threaten its social and political stability".

These imponderables reinforce the necessity of subjecting policy claims that purport to follow from economic theory to at least logical tests. This test Lord Bruce-Gardyne and some of Mrs Thatcher's more strident economic advisers conspicuously fail. This was a claim of the original letter and nothing has occurred to make it false.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK HAHN,
ROBERT SOLOW,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
March 7.

Church and remarriage

From Mr Donald Ellison

Sir, At a time when proposed changes in the matrimonial law are the subject of parliamentary debate and widespread public discussion, Chancellor Garth Moore's somewhat over-simplified account (March 1) of the practice of the ecclesiastical courts in matrimonial cases prior to 1857 should be put into perspective.

The Chancellor says that because the Church maintains the official doctrine that marriage is indissoluble, no Church court would ever grant what today we call a decree of divorce. This might lead one to believe that the ecclesiastical courts and the lawyers who practised in them were faithful to the principle of the indissolubility of marriage enshrined in Christian doctrine. This, however, is very far from being the case.

Although the ecclesiastical courts would not grant to those who sought relief from a distasteful marriage a decree of divorce, they were only too ready to grant decrees annulling marriages on utterly flimsy and far-fetched pretences. An aura of plausibility was cast over this scandalous practice by an intellectually dishonest extension of two doctrines:

Choice of ministry

From the General Secretary of the Clearing Bank Union

Sir, How sad it is when Tim Congdon, as the economic partner at L. Messel and Co. should reduce the industrial crisis that Britain faces to the script of *Yes, Minister* (February 22).

When Frank Cousins was asked to join the Wilson Government, there were a number of ministries he could have taken, the obvious one being the Ministry of Labour, but he chose Technology because he recognised that, without sensible central planning, much of our industrial base would vanish.

Some of the industries the new fledgling Ministry of Technology examined were atomic energy, machine-tools and computers and two of the three were saved. Tim Congdon's view, if I have read him correctly, was that they, along with any other industry that does not meet a financial criterion, should be allowed to go under.

How on earth does he think the French, Germans, the Japanese and the Americans' succeeded? Their ministries of technology intervene directly or indirectly to steer and bolster vital sectors of their economy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COUSINS, General Secretary,
Clearing Bank Union,
14 St Clements Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

Candour in Poland

From Mr R. H. G. Edmonds

Sir, Your leading article, "Tiptoeing into Poland" (February 21) states that the Polish people would be offended if, by visiting Poland, Western statesmen were to "confer favour" on the Polish Government.

As a long-standing friend of Poland I am certain that the Poles are far too intelligent to indulge in this kind of naivety. They know well that the main reasons why political leaders visit each others' countries are severely practical. And, as Lord Shackleton pointed out in his letter (published in *The Times* of February

1. That of pre-contract, by which a marriage was held to be null and void because one of the parties to it had previously promised to marry someone else.

2. That of consanguinity and affinity, by which the table of prohibited degrees in the Book of Leviticus was extended to the seventh degree.

These ingenious devices, which enabled the lawyers to obtain from the ecclesiastical courts what their clients wanted (and could pay for), were further elaborated by the Roman law doctrine of "spiritual affinity" attributed to the Emperor Justinian. It thus became possible to have a valid marriage annulled because the husband had stood godfather to his wife's cousin or, as in one case on record (that of Roger Donnington, in the sixteenth century), because the husband had, before the marriage, engaged in sexual relations with a third cousin of his future wife.

The moral of all this, I submit, is that the doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage is essentially perfectionist and, as such, unworkable for imperfect mortals.

Yours etc,
DONALD ELLISON,
27 Wheatheaf Lane,
Fulham, SW6,
March 1.

Balance in EEC

From Mr Michael Fallon, MP for Darlington (Conservative)

Sir, Pace Mr Harris (February 25), if the point of having a Labour member of the Commission was to overcome Labour hostility to the Community, it has significantly failed. Despite the efforts of George Thomson, Roy Jenkins and Ivor Richard, the Labour Party moved from quibbling over the terms (1972) to open disagreement on the principle (1975) and then to outright commitment to withdrawal (1983).

As Labour must now accept continued membership, the £91.060 a year each commissioner costs the taxpayer in salaries and allowances might now be better spent on a businessman with proven managerial skills rather than on subsidising Ivor Richard's flights from Brussels to obscure party meetings up and down the country.

Commissioners must, in any case, be completely independent and neutral (article 157) and Continental convention is no excuse for not reverting to the treaty in this and in other matters.

Why not a single commissioner for each member state as the Spierenburg committee long ago recommended and which will be inevitable, in any event, after Spanish and Portuguese accession?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FALLON,
House of Commons,
February 28.

4) the pragmatic case against the policy of maintaining sanctions against Poland is now overwhelming.

As for morality, what is to prevent Western leaders speaking in Poland with the same "refreshing candour" on human rights as Mr Perez de Cuellar? This is surely implicit in the idea of East-West dialogue of which the Prime Minister is now an advocate.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN EDMONDS,
Ashburton Cottage,
43 North Road,
Highgate Village, N6,
March 1.

Perceptions of the Dimbleby dispute

From Mr Giles Smith

Sir, I write solely in my capacity as a broadcasting member of the NUJ's national executive.

Your leader, "The Dimbleby affair" (March 8), almost gets to the heart of the matter. Whatever the rights and wrongs of Mr Dimbleby's dispute with the NUJ, and however much confidence the BBC may have in Mr Dimbleby's impartiality, the danger is that some sections of the viewing community will perceive him to be less than totally impartial at this particular time and under the present circumstances. That would be damaging to the BBC's high reputation for impartiality.

It is surely not too late for Mr Dimbleby and/or the BBC to acknowledge the potential danger of that perception and for them to change their Budget programme plans. This would have an essentially secondary, but important, beneficial side effect, namely, to avoid the severest test of loyalties for many BBC journalists who have been proud to work with Mr Dimbleby in the past.

I am sure all would be proud to work with him again in the future, once his dispute with their union had been honourably resolved.

Yours etc,
GILES SMITH,
ITN House,
48 Wells Street, W1,
March 8.

The Thatcher account

From Mr Iain F MacMaster

Sir, The Editor of *The Sunday Times* is wrong in claiming that his staff were not guilty of deception when they paid money into the account of Montague Marketing Limited in order to discover details of the account.

In that they represented, either actually or by implication, that they had proper business in paying money into the account when in fact this was not the case, they were guilty of deception.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN F. MACMASTER,
30 Beauchamp Road,
Hammermith, W6,
March 7.

Jail in Bophuthatswana

From Mr E. J. Senne

Sir, During a private visit to London, I saw an article in *The Times* of February 18 about the British crumpies jailed in Bophuthatswana after pleading guilty to the theft of large sums of money in Sun City. Your correspondent quotes from a letter, which alleges that these men were not able to see consular officials and luridly suggests the "physical molestation of the women", and that one of the male accused had been "almost physically raped by five men".

All of these allegations are untrue. The facts are:

Both the British Vice-Consul (Mr L. J. Weldon) and his USA counterpart visited the Republic of Bophuthatswana and were given access to their nationals. None of the women complained "to the authorities about being physically molested. None of the men complained about being "almost raped". There were complaints about food; however, I would point out that the prison diet is approved by both our Department of Health and the International Red Cross; other white prisoners have not complained.

The Republic of Bophuthatswana is an entirely non-racial country, and all prisoners in our jails are treated alike. We regret that British criminals feel they should have preferential treatment.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. SENNE,
Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Private Bag X3102,
Mafikeng 8670,
Bophuthatswana,
February 22.

Stopping 'The Times'

From Mr Robert L. Huxham

Sir, You do right to champion your servitude to the trade unions and to express your shame in your first leader today, (March 1). But surely shame is not enough. Why don't you do something about it?

Throw off your shackles by going non-union, which would enable you to eliminate overmanning and make you immune from "days of action".

The *Nottingham Post* has done it successfully and surely what a provincial evening newspaper can do should not be beyond the Thunderer.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT L. HUXHAM,
89 Gloucester Place, W1,
March 1.

Cross words

From the Reverend E. M. Burgess

Sir, Dr Charles Cruickshank, in his appeal for examples of lexicographical dry humour (February 6) will find much satisfaction in browsing in the pre-1972 editions of *Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary*. They include the following definitions:

Eclair - a cake long in shape but short in duration with cream filling and chocolate or other icing; *hunch* - a restaurateur's name for an ordinary man's dinner; *restoration* - renovations or reconstruction (sometimes little different from destruction) of a building, painting, etc; *noose* - a snare or bond generally, especially hanging or marriage; *vamp* - a featherless bird of prey.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BURGESS,
Duloe Rectory,
Liskeard,
Cornwall.

THE ARTS

Cinema

The bomb, sex, Berlin: Hitchcock beats all

Testament (PG)

Gate, Notting Hill: Gate, Bloomsbury

Flight to Berlin (15)

Chelsea Cinema, Camden Plaza

Vertigo (PG)

Plaza, Electric Screen, Portobello Road

Love Streams (15)

Premiere, Shaftesbury Avenue

Risky Business (18)

Circus, Classic Tottenham Court Road; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; and others.

Hollywood first began to speculate on the nuclear holocaust at the height of the first Cold War, in 1951, with Arch Oboler's *Five*. Subsequent and more sophisticated films followed: *In the Beach*, *Dr Strangelove*, *Fail Safe*. Lately we have had *War Games* and *The Day After*. *Testament*, though, is the first nuclear disaster film made by a woman; and the director, Lynne Littman, herself feels that a woman's approach is necessarily different from a man's.

"I think all mothers experience a feeling that boils down to: 'We're not giving life in order to watch our children die'... while men seem

to get involved in debating the logistics of nuclear warfare".

The script is from a story by Carol Amen, which appeared in a feminist magazine. There are no politicians or scientists or nuclear hardware in sight. There are no preliminaries to the disaster, and after it no longer any communications to tell the people what has happened and where. It could be war, or a dreadful error, or terrorism.

This is probably how it would be. Ms Littman is unapologetically realistic in documenting the gradual effects of social disintegration. Hamelin is as nice a little town as ever existed outside TV soap opera, full of busy, friendly folk. At first they rally bravely, with democratic meetings in the church and orderly plans to conserve resources and maintain calm and normality. But the best intentions are no proof against the panic that comes with the daily spread of famine, sickness and death. Nerves break, and people must defend themselves against their neighbours with guns.

The focus of the story is one family: a mother (played with fine unsentimentality by Jane Alexander) and her three children. The husband is away from home at the moment of the catastrophe, and is lost, somewhere out there. The woman watches two children die; yet along with her elder son, forced to sudden maturity, she somehow still clings to the memory of happiness and moral values. This is the lifeline of optimism in Ms Littman's devastating vision. It is tough, but essential viewing for times when it is easy to forget that politics are people. The film opens at the Gate-Notting Hill and Gate Bloomsbury, not, as stated on this page on Tuesday, at the Plaza.

Christopher Petit is a director whose films - *Radio On*, *An Unsuitable Job For A Woman* and now *Flight to Berlin* - command a lot

of sympathy. Petit began his career as a serious and dedicated critic, and brings the same fervour to film-making. He is in reaction against a British cinema which he sees restricted by literary preoccupations and "good taste": he wants to be a European director.

Flight to Berlin confirms, however, the inward-looking quality of his work. He is so devoted to the craft that his films are really about making films and nothing else. It is a valid approach, but limits the audience to those who share his preoccupations.

No wonder then that in *Flight to Berlin* the only motive for events and people often seems to be that they are like other films. The film begins with all the premises of a thriller: a girl, who like some Hitchcock innocent, flees to Berlin under suspicion of murder. But Petit comes from a generation that thought that telling stories was somehow too obvious and easy and unworthy for films; and this narrative is quickly abandoned.

What remains, with the equivocal characters and drift of incidents, is a pastiche of 1960s European art movies. The heroine overlays her odyssey with a subjective commentary that sounds wiser if you only half-listen ("You... leave the past behind but by some strange chance you find the past still ahead of you - waiting"). Her sister (Lisa Kreutzer) is the familiar voyeur-with-camera. There is a mysterious "dealer", and Eddie Constantine as the kind of real-life icon and oracle beloved of the *nouvelle vague*, delivering sage maxims like "Keep a moving target. A moving target is always very hard to hit".

It is all *déjà vu*: the incessant cool music; the AFN newscaster heard over images of cars on the autobahn; the bar encounters, windows across courtyards, the streets in which there is inevitably some bit of comic business going on in the background. Petit has skill, style, a fine cam-



James Stewart and Kim Novak in *Vertigo*: a quarter of a century old, maybe not the very best of Hitchcock, but still as good as anything on view at the moment

eraman and the ability to find the means to make his films. All he needs now is to get out on his own. It is a lesson to return to the 26-year-old *Vertigo*. While Petit shamelessly evades his story, Hitchcock, as he had always done, goes painstakingly about the business of an absurdly improbable melodrama. The story was suggested by a novel by Boileau and Narcejac.

Within the framework of the melodrama and a bright, superficial script, Hitchcock still could find the means to explore the curious depths of the psyche which fascinated him professionally and tormented him privately. The trick is in the perfect skill, deceptively easy, with which images and actors are manipulated. Hitchcock can invent the most elaborate technical effects - the famous back-tracking zoom shots to create the effect of *vertigo*, or the climactic kiss which involved a whole elaborate *mise-en-scène* and

revolving platforms - and yet totally integrate them into the flow and necessity of the narrative. *Vertigo* was never the best of Hitchcock, whether in 1958 or 1984: the story remained rather silly; and the animation dream-sequences were always uncomfortable. It is still a good deal better than anything else that may currently be seen around.

Space prevents proper justice to John Cassavetes' *Love Streams*, which just won the main prize of the Berlin Film Festival, and is certainly his best film. Based on Ted Allan's autobiographical play, which Cassavetes directed on the stage, this is the director-writer-actor's first collaboration with another writer. The result is a more powerful drive to the narrative, though Cassavetes remains an indulgent self-editor, and the film is overlong at 130 minutes. It is the story of a pair of acute Californian neurotics, brother and sister, fairly destructive of others, and sustained

by a mutual love that just falls short of incestuous. Life, says the brother, is "suicides, divorces, promises broken and kids smashed". Yet life (and the film) can be funny, too.

Risky Business is the writer-director debut of Paul Brickman, who scripted Jonathan Demme's *Citizen Band*, and it has moments of the kindly irony of that film. It tells the story of an adolescent who sets out to live it up while his parents are away for a few days, and ends up turning their classy home into a brothel. There are unmistakable vestiges of an intended satire on contemporary materialism (the boy's carnal enterprise wins him a place in Princeton's business school) but a lot of it ends up as teenage titillation. Rebecca De Mornay, who plays a touching bereaved mother in *Testament* is as notable here in the role of a sharp young prostitute.

David Robinson

Television

Rampant gentility

People have been saying for some time now that London's docklands are on the up: judging by *Winter Sunlight* (C4), that is something of an understatement. The first episode of this leafy, gabled, French-polished, four-part series from Limehouse Productions exuded a gentility of the sort you would have to hunt for even in the stockbroker belt.

Everybody had porcelain faces and porcelain voices, with the exception of Alice, who swore, and who was quite rightly bundled off straight away to an eventide home. Everyone else, of course, had Problems (the stuff of drama): stifled hopes, prying neighbours, illicit affairs, algebra. Everyone else, right down to soulful young Mick, 13, seemed older than Alice, and to be having much less fun.

Felicity, drawing her antique wedding dress on over her (giggly) suspenders, tried to put a brave face on things: "Marriage doesn't have to be forever, though right now I want it to be - and so does he."

For Leo, big in local government, and suffering clandestinely from 21-year itch, tired complaints about unfairly shared housework were a routine problem: "Don't give me the women's thing, Jane."

They really did talk like that, and they acted like it, too: heavy bouts of scene-setting, much tasteful bandying of each others' names, like a new, middle-class version of *The Archers* getting into gear. The director, Julian Amyes, was responsible a couple of years ago for a wonderfully gutsy adaptation of *Great Expectations*. Alas, he is here working under the aegis of a former producer of *Coronation Street*: these four episodes could be the thin end of a wedge.

It never rains but it pours. Last week, in *The Other Half*, we had Sir Angus Wilson and his friend Tony Garrett proving that a homosexual marriage could be as pleasant and even as socially acceptable as any heterosexual one. Last night's edition of *Forty Minutes*, entitled *Demelza's Baby* (BBC 2), invited us into the homespun bosom of a happy family, both of whose parents were women. (The welfare state would presumably designate it a one-parent family, drawing a tasteful veil.)

Demelza, who pounds the bongos for an "Afro-Cornish" band (playing Latin-American music), found herself accidentally bed one night with a chap, and little Morgan (as in Morgan le Fay) was the result. She and her mate Judy were shown bringing up their tiny friend, *Demelza*: "It's the best thing that ever happened to us, having a baby."

Judging by the intelligent devotion with which young Morgan was treated, it seemed quite a good thing to happen to a baby, too.

Michael Church

Coliseum season

The ENO are standing by their policy of introducing the maximum possible number of new productions to the repertoire each season. In 1984/85 there will be nine productions to add to 13 revivals, and a number of them will be of unfamiliar works.

Janacek's *Ornd* (Fate) gets its English stage premiere in a double bill with Kurt Weill's first setting of a Brecht text, *Muhomov's Songs* on September 8. There is another English stage premiere on December 30: Tchaikovsky's *Mazepa*. Handel's *Xerxes* (conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras) comes in on February 23, the composer's birthday. And on May 15 there will be another birthday celebration: the first ENO staging of Sir Michael Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage* on the day he reaches 80.

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Gallery

Outsiders' approaches to Venice



Scirocco by Ralph Curtis

While the splendid exhibition at the Royal Academy celebrates what can justifiably be called the golden age of Venetian painting, in Venice itself, at the Museo Correr, there is (until March 18) a fascinating exploration of *Venezia nell'Ottocento*, which could equally well be described as the city's iron age. Many of the charming cast-iron bridges erected from 1850 onwards were designed by the British engineer A. H. Neville, who had his own foundry at San Rocco, from which the bridges emerged in prefabricated sections to be assembled on site. His two most prominent bridges, over the Grand Canal, at the Scalzi and the Accademia, were both replaced in the 1930s; the latter with a "temporary" structure in wood which is now itself in urgent need of replacement.

The section covering architecture comes at the end of the exhibition, which begins with a group of allegorical depictions of Venice, mostly referring to the Austrian domination which lasted from the ignominious fall of the Republic in 1797 to 1866, when it became part of united Italy under the House of Savoy. The exhibition is subtitled "Images and Myth" and attempts, with some success, to show first of all how the fabric of the city presented itself, especially to foreign artists, and then how Venetians interpreted their own past.

Among the British artists who visited Venice during the century, Turner is the most important and the two watercolours by him which Ruskin donated to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, *The Riva degli Schiavoni* and *The Grand Canal*, are so luminously evocative that they must surely have been executed on the spot, as Ruskin himself affirmed.

Richard Parkes Bonington's approach is more strictly topographical, although he enhances his views with consciously picturesque touches, such as the exotically garbed figures in the foreground of the Manchester City Art Gallery's exquisite *Doge's Palace and the Piazzetta*, painted in Paris from pencil sketches made on the spot. The French were also drawn to the city, notably Monet, represented by his *Doge's Palace* (New York, the Brooklyn Museum of Art) and *San Marco della Salute and the Grand Canal* (London, private collection), both also begun during his only visit to the city, in 1908, and completed in his Paris studio in preparation for exhibition at Bernheim-Jeune four years later. Their broad handling and discordant colours are somewhat disconcerting in the context of the exhibition, into which a more restrained work such as Boudin's delightful *Grand Canal, the Austrian boat* fits more comfortably.

America is represented by Whistler, whose etchings bring out the melancholy of the city's myriad alleys and courts, haunted by spectral figures, working or begging, and by Sargent whose bravura manner does full justice to the baroque richness of Longhena's masterpiece in *The Entrance to the Salute* (Cambridge, The Fitzwilliam Museum).

The Venetians' own view of their surroundings oscillates

between Ippolito Caffi's meticulous and dramatically lit scenes of great animation, such as the *Serenade Before the Piazzetta* (Venice, Museum of Modern Art, Ca' Pesaro) and Guglielmo Ciardi's "marvelously bleak views of the lagoon: one, from the Pasinetti collection features a tiny train puffing along the distant horizon. It is signed and dated 1867. The following year Ciardi, who was born in 1842, travelled to Florence, Rome and Naples, meeting other Italian artists and seeing works by contemporary French painters. As a result, his technique became more refined, without however any loss of vigour.

His mature style is seen at its best in a remarkable pair of hitherto unpublished works from a private collection in

Milan: *The Giudecca Canal and Gondola in the Lagoon* in both of which the architectural element is reduced to a minimum. The gondolier in the latter picture is clearly not a professional, and Giuseppe Pavanetto, in his catalogue entry, quotes from Théophile Gautier's *Loyage* in which he draws attention to practice not only among "young patricians" of propelling their own gondolas, but of foreigners also, especially the English, "en leur qualité de peuple nautique".

Ruskin acts as a link between two sections of the exhibition, the images and the myth, appropriately enough, it may be thought, since he contributed significantly to the diffusion of the first and the creation of the second. The first room on the second floor is dedicated to "the geniuses of Venetian painting", above all Titian, whose childhood is represented by William Dyce's famous depiction of the artist's first attempt at colour, now in the Aberdeen Art Gallery and his funeral by a vast (and rather bad) canvas by Enrico Gamba (Turin, Civic Gallery of Modern Art) together with a smaller, better version by Eugenio Moretti Larese (Venezia, private collection), while Tintoretto is shown painting a portrait of his dead daughter in a work by Leon Cogniet (Bordeaux, Museum of Fine Arts).

Venetian history is evoked by Francesco Hayez and Michelangelo Grigoletti and there is a section devoted to contemporary events, which includes Napoleone Nani's curious *Danielle Manin and Niccolò Tommaseo, freed from prison, being borne in triumph, in Piazza San Marco* (Fondazione Querini-Stampalini), in which a mass of circumstantial detail is lovingly rendered. Nani's picture is dated 1836, by which time a more relaxed, looser manner was gaining favour and is best exemplified in the work of Giacomo Favretto (1849-87) who was to some extent influenced by Ciardi.

Favretto's *Handalism* (Milan, Brera), in which a back restorer is mauling a canvas by Tiepolo for the artist but is also significant in the context of the revival of interest in the eighteenth century, pioneered by Pompeo Gherardo Molmenti, who published Tiepolo's Villa Valmarana frescoes in 1880, the year Favretto's picture was exhibited in Milan.

Jeffery Daniels

Concerts

Kirkby/Tubb/ Rooley Wigmore Hall

The entwining of two equal voices, their play of dissonance and resolution, is one of the most characteristic sounds of baroque music; at the end of Monteverdi's *Peppera* or in the duets of Bach's cantatas the balance of paired voices over the reliable tread of a continuo bass sums up the contained drama of the period.

But most examples of the form are little known and singers associated with the Consort of Musick have been exploring the rich Italian and English repertory in a pair of Wigmore Hall concerts: on Wednesday the sopranos Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb joined Alexander Rooley. As the limits were set by the title "Vocal Duets before Handel", I was disappointed to find only a sprinkling of later music, no Cazzati, and no Steffani.

Instead there were some fascinating discoveries from an earlier period: Angelo Notari, who worked in England and in the Veneto, whose setting of a Giulio Strozzi text provided the evening's keynote in his description of the singer winging his way "from pole to pole in joyous flight". The flights were indeed fanciful, a little empty in some of the Monteverdi followers, though not in Sigismondo d'India's purposeful and dramatic virtuosity.

Miss Tubb did not mimic Miss Kirkby's easy, flowing clarity; she cultivated duskier, freer sound that provided some strong contrasts, and she declared the hero's lament with aptly hysterical fervour.

Nicholas Kenyon

Alexander Baillie Queen Elizabeth Hall

A cellist who includes the unaccompanied Sonata by Kodaly in his programme knows that technique will be measured against some of the most testing demands in the repertory, and Alexander Baillie on Wednesday was more than equal to them. His wholly expert performance had a beguiling virtuosity without flamboyance, a studied mastery in its practical application of the range of devices required which, at the same time, persuaded us

it was much more than an exercise.

Mr Baillie's tone had a generous warmth and nobility all through its range, from a solid low register in which only an occasional rasp marred its effect, to a glowing top that sang out serenely. After hearing how he contended with Kodaly, I began to think that he could be still more superb in one of the solo suites by Britten, which make as many but different demands, and resolve them into music of superior imagination to be borne in mind for a future programme, perhaps.

The cellist's regular duo partner, Kathryn Surrock, was for some unannounced reason unable to take part; she was gallantly replaced by Piers Lane. In the circumstances there could hardly be quite the same closeness of response in performance, and in the opening Beethoven sonata, Op 69 in A, Mr Baillie gave the impression of being the more even-tempered and conversational, whereas Mr Lane seemed to prefer more heavily accented phrasing.

They were more acceptably matched in Rachmaninov, whose G minor Sonata Op 19 invites outrageous sentiment and profits from moderation in all things. Though the broad span of the music is emotionally overdrawn for the time it occupies, this performance had an open-hearted warmth and skilfully shaded dynamics that were most affecting.

Noel Goodwin

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The crock of gold still eludes the Midland

Midland Bank has gone to great lengths to assure its anxious staff that the problems at Crocker National Bank, its Californian subsidiary, do not threaten their future. After last year's special \$107m provision, which leaves Midland Bank's 1983 pre-tax profits down from £251m to £225m, shareholders too would have appreciated a reassuring word. Sir Donald Barron, chairman, and his team were unable to provide one yesterday. They had been advised by lawyers on both sides of the Atlantic that if they answered questions on Crocker they could run into legal problems in the United States from Crocker's minority shareholders. There is irony there.

What they felt able to say was not entirely reassuring. Mr John Harris, one of the Midland directors, who was recently despatched to Crocker where he is now number two with the rank of senior vice-chairman, has been assessing Crocker's loan portfolio and establishing a new working relationship between Midland and Crocker. He has no illusions that there is much hard work still to be done.

Crocker's contribution to Midland's results was a £17m loss last year compared with a £46m profit in 1982 and in Mr Harris's words: "It would be tempting fate to predict a rapid turnaround, although we would be disappointed if Crocker did not return to profitability this year."

It is not easy to reconcile this statement with the assurances from senior Crocker executives last year that the bank's property provisions were a one-off blow and Crocker was expected to be back in profit in the first quarter of this year. The inference many City analysts are now drawing is that there will be further sizeable provisions and Crocker's performance this year is unlikely to be much to write home about. W. Greenwell for instance, which had been forecasting profits of £370m from Midland in 1984, is now expecting about £333m.

Crocker, apart, the international side of Midland's activities has suffered from heavy provisions (29 per cent higher) and the trade finance subsidiary is also still having a difficult time. Total provisions are up from £196m to £318m and as at Barclays and National Westminster, there is a sharp rise in general provision from £34m to £90m, much of that is to cover Midland's exposure to uncertain sovereign debt.

The cheerful news is on the domestic side where profits before loan interest are up by a quarter to £287m - 90 per cent of the group total. Domestic subsidiaries, including Thomas Cook and Northern Bank, have generally done better.

Efforts to cut costs in the United Kingdom are also bearing fruit. Staff numbers were two per cent lower and improved spreads and sharp rises in fees and bank charges, which all the clearers have been pushing through, have improved the picture.

Midland have been discriminating in its United Kingdom lending: domestic advances rose by seven per cent which is a slightly slower rate of growth than the other banks seem to be experiencing. This form of restraint contributes towards a stronger balance sheet. The combination of disposals and last year's capital raising have also strengthened the balance sheet ratios.

As for the dividend, Midland has cut the end-year payment to leave the year's total unchanged at 25.5p.

Deepening gloom over New York

Mr Reagan's Chief Economic Adviser, Mr Martin Feldstein, added his voice yesterday to the growing chorus of woe about the performance of the US economy, and threw sensitive markets into further shock. Mr Feldstein predicted that US first quarter growth should exceed 6 per cent at an annual rate, a percentage strong enough, to frighten any remaining bulls of US bonds who had quailed at the sight of the near-5 per cent expansion rate in the final quarter of last year.

Not surprisingly, stock and bond markets eased. The damage was by no means as severe as that inflicted by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in his speech on Wednesday to the US League of Savings Institutions. He offered yet more gloom about the US federal deficit ("Unfortunately people aren't talking about cutting \$50bn in fiscal 1985").

A recalcitrant Congress is the obvious target of both speeches, and the view from New York last night was that enough tactical pressure could be created to push tax-raising measures through before the April recess. Merrill Lynch, for example, is looking for a \$135 billion package covering the next three years, organized round a one-one ratio of tax increases to spending cuts.

Further out is the spectacle of significant international disruption threatened by possible sovereign default. Argentina, for one, is now well in arrears with repayments of its \$44 billion debts, and the country's Bank Advisory Committee is meeting in New York.

Scope for American manoeuvre may well be further limited by the crop of impending US economic data. The latest US money supply figures are due out overnight, analysts are shooting for a fall in M-1 of \$2 billion after a rise of \$3 billion which took the growth to very top end of the -4.8 per cent target range.

Electra's dash for the stable door

Yesterday's new Business Expansion Scheme fashioned by Electra Risk Capital bears all the signs of a horse quickly unleashed in case the stable door is shut on Tuesday. Electra is trying to raise £1.1m for the Brook Stud Company, whose business is breeding, selling and boarding thoroughbred horses. The money will be used principally to expand the stud by buying shares in "stallions of international appeal, and bloodstock which the company's directors believe will show a long-term capital profit". Significantly the offer will close and the proceeds be fully invested by April 5, just four weeks away.

It is hard to see how Brook Stud fits in with the spirit of the Business Expansion Scheme, however closely it meets the letter. The company, in question was founded in 1926 and has, so far as we know, been run on a sound footing. It employs just 11 people, and there is no suggestion that the BES money will lead to new recruitment. Neither is there any claim that the money is needed for research into breeding methods.

If the Chancellor is contemplating restricting the scope of the BES for the new tax year, the Electra stable has given him some very timely ammunition.

Cadbury may seek US cash to fund expansion drive

By Jeremy Warner

Cadbury Schweppes, the big confectionery and soft drinks group, is examining the possibility of placing up to 44 million of its shares, or a maximum of 10 per cent of its issued share capital, with investors in the United States. The shares are traded in the form of American Depositary Receipts.

The chairman, Sir Adrian Cadbury, said yesterday that the group had embarked on a significant programme of capital spending on its businesses in the United States and it was considering entering the US equity market.

With about 8 per cent of the US confectionery market and a much smaller proportion of the soft drinks market, the company said that it felt it lacked the "clout" it would like in the United States. It plans to spend heavily on organic expansion of its confectionery business until it has something approaching double that share of the market.

Sir Adrian said that he saw

the involvement of American investors as a part of the company's strategy of seeking a higher profile in the US, and while he did not expect the company to achieve the dominant positions of Mars and Hershey in the US confectionery market, he did hope that Cadbury would break free of the second rung of confectionery groups with shares in the 5 per cent to 10 per cent range.

Stock market analysts expect Cadbury to be followed by a large number of British companies seeking greater involvement by American investors. BTR, the big industrial conglomerate which reports full-year profits next week, is widely rumoured to be considering a similar move to that of Cadbury.

A buoyant performance in US operations helped to lift Cadbury's pretax profits by 19.2 per cent from £89.7m to £106.6m last year. In North America, trading profits rose



Sir Adrian Cadbury: aiming to double market share

from £19.6m to £26.9m on the back of a double figure gain in the volume of sales.

Cadbury's main market in Britain was difficult last year. The group was unable to push through any price increases and there was no rise in the volume of goods sold. Even so, trading profits pushed ahead from

£51.5m to £57.3m, helped by the better productivity of the group has achieved since cutting its workforce.

The company is also hopeful that the product rationalization it started five years ago

Cadbury's Creme Eggs have proved a huge marketing success. The company managed to sell 200 million of them last year in Britain alone - four for every head of population - and exported more than 100 million to the United States. In January this year, sales were 40 per cent higher than the same month of 1983, helped by the "Conundrum" golden egg treasure hunt the group has devised.

The Cadbury share price rose 5p to 135p on the results, which were better than expected. A final dividend of 3.5p is being promised, raising the total for the year from 4.9p to 5.4p.

Sir Adrian said: "Investment in America remains a priority and other areas of expansion are the Pacific Basin and South America."

UK trade surplus falls to £2bn

By Frances Williams

Britain's deficit on overseas trade in goods other than oil widened by a massive £5.3 billion year to £7.5 billion. The deterioration was concentrated in trade in manufactures which recorded a deficit of £2.1 billion, the first since the industrial revolution, after a surplus of £2.5 billion in 1982.

The worsening trade balance, only partly reduced by a growing oil surplus, was the chief factor behind the drop in overall current account surplus from £4.6 billion in 1982 to a £2.2 billion last year. A £200m deficit on visible trade - the first since 1979 - was countered by a £2.5 billion surplus on the invisible account, which includes services such as insurance and shipping.

The Government's latest forecast for the current balance of payments this year and next will be published in the Budget on Tuesday. It is expected to show a slight fall, if lower, surplus rather than the bare balance predicted in November, as trade prospects improve with the reviving world economy.

The private sector and state industries notched up a surplus on invisible earnings of £6.6 billion last year - a slight fall from 1982 - but the invisible account overall worsened by £700m.

Travel, civil aviation and the City all increased their foreign income, with a notable rise for insurance, particularly Lloyd's, according to the Central Statistical Office.

But the surplus on interest, profits and dividends fell as higher profits from North Sea activities and subsidiaries of overseas companies were repatriated abroad. There was also a small worsening in the deficit on government transfers, mostly due to extra payments to the EEC and more Third World aid.

Investment in overseas stocks and shares was little changed last year at £6.3 billion, but there are signs that the outflow from the financial institutions may have peaked.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS £m, seasonally adjusted			
	Visible	Invisible	Current
	Balance	Balance	Balance
1981	3652	3820	7272
1982	2384	3187	5571
1983	-500	2049	1549
1982 Q1	471	836	1107
Q2	211	816	1237
Q3	588	649	1237
Q4	1114	1086	2180
1983 Q1	203	891	1094
Q2	-450	428	-22
Q3	-248	901	653
Q4	5	334	339

Source: Central Statistical Office

Hawley seeks £34m for US purchases

By William Kay, City Editor

Hawley Group, the cleaning, leisure and security company led by Mr Michael Ashcroft, is asking shareholders for £34.3m to finance an important push into the US.

The money is to be raised through a rights issue at the rate of seven new shares for every 20 held, at a price of 80p compared with last night's market price of 93p, down 5p on the day. Officially, the cash will largely be used to reduce borrowings. However, Mr Ashcroft said yesterday: "Because we operate in fragmented markets, we have to make numerous small acquisitions. But you cannot keep

placing shares every few weeks to pay for them, so now we shall have enough cash to pay for a series of deals."

A string of such takeovers swelled Hawley almost out of recognition last year. Figures released yesterday show turnover up from £40.4m to £137m, pretax profits up from £5.3m to £14.2m, but earnings per share improved less spectacularly from 4.5p to 6.1p. Analysts are expecting £26m profits this year, without any more acquisitions.

The US expansion will be spearheaded by Hawley obtaining a share listing in New York.

TKM stakeholder named

By Our City Staff

Mr Ron Brierley, whose £150m business empire in Australia spans the operation of a railway, flour manufacturing, funeral parks and wool trading, has emerged as the man behind an 8.1 per cent shareholding that has been built up in Tozer Kemsley & Millburn (Holdings), the troubled international trading group.

Mr Brierley, an accountant by training, is well known in

Australia for taking interests in international trading groups. His talent is said to be in spotting asset-rich, undervalued companies for acquisition.

TKM said yesterday that it had never heard of his company, Industrial Equity, before receiving news of the share stake, and it had no idea what Mr Brierley's plans for the investment were.

BA names flotation brokers

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

British Airways yesterday announced the appointment of two stockbroking firms which will act as its advisers in the run-up to the airline's flotation, scheduled for next year.

The two firms are Rowe & Pitman and Phillips & Drew. They will become brokers to the company and can expect to continue this role after privatization has taken place.

Hill Samuel, the merchant bank which is advising the Department of Transport on the flotation, is looking for two other stockbroking firms to act for the Government in the issue.

The sale has been provisionally scheduled for next spring, and is likely to value British Airways at between £800m and £1,000m, which will make it the second largest government privatization issue so far undertaken, the biggest being the British Telecom flotation planned for this autumn.

Whereas Rowe & Pitman have been involved in previous government issues such as Britoil in 1982, Phillips & Drew have not been involved before.

US worries hit gilts

Fears of higher US interest rates produced a flurry of nervous selling in Government securities yesterday, as the dollar rallied on foreign exchange.

Prices fell by as much as 1/2 at the longer end and the new "tap", Exchequer, 10 per cent, 1989, opened at a small discount in first-time dealings. Dealers said investors were anxiously awaiting the latest US money supply figures.

Equities recovered from a nervous start, with the FT index closing 2.3 up at 837.7 and the FT-SE 100 advancing 0.2 to 1055.8.

Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1055.8 up 0.2 (day's high: 1056.0, Low: 1050.9)

FT Index: 837.7 up 2.3
FT All Share: 500.06 down 0.04

Bargains: 23,502
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 108.34 down 0.34
New York: Dow Jones Industrial (latest) 1142.27 down 1.36

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,959 down 61.66
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1077.55 down 13.89
Amsterdam: 167.8 down 2.3
Sydney: AO Index 716.4 down 6.6
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1011.8 down 3.2
Brussels: General Index 143.13 down 0.45
Paris: CAC Index 160.7 down 1.0
Zurich: SNA General 303.20 down 4.20

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4580 down 180pts
Index 81.1 down 0.3
DM 3.7750 unchanged
FF 11.62.00 up 0.0250
Yen 327.50 down 2.00
Dollar Index 125.4 up 0.8
DM 2.5885 up 0.0325

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4585
Dollar DM 2.5880
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.59085
SDR £0.724228

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$396.35 pm \$397.25
close \$396.00-\$396.50
(£271.50-272.00)
New York (latest): \$396.75

NEWS IN BRIEF

Opec likely to defend oil price

The influential monitoring committee of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in Vienna today, determined to maintain world stability in oil prices and output, against increasing North Sea output and Nigerian demands for increased production to earn foreign exchange.

The current strength of the pound against the dollar - all oil transactions are in US dollars - has so far made it easier for Opec to accept current North Sea output, though Britain has refused to agree a quota.

● A request from Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International to block an exchange of shares between Warner Communications and Chris-Craft Industries was refused by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8.75-9
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
FRF 16 1/4-16 1/2

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4
Treasury long bond 97 1/2-97 1/4

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period February 8, 1984, to March 6, 1984, inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

Pontin plans theme park

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

An aquatic theme park, with two huge water slides as key attractions, is planned for Scarborough's North Bay, opening in June at a first-year cost of around £500,000. The park is being backed by Sir Fred Pontin's new leisure group based on Kunick Holdings.

Sir Fred, whose other most recent acquisition was the London Dungeon for £1m, is forecasting for the leisure group pretax profits of around

£500,000 for the year to next September. These are likely to grow to about £1m next year as the profit potential of acquisitions and new projects comes through, according to Sir Fred.

Negotiations are in hand for the group to get a share quotation soon.

Sir Fred, who is hoping to get an English Tourist Board grant to help with the cost, said research indicated "great success" for the park.

Dealers discount US optimism

Dollar stages technical rally

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The dollar rose sharply on the foreign exchange markets yesterday against a background of firming dollar interest rates and indications that the US economy is still moving ahead strongly.

Dealers said the dollar's surge was a technical reaction to its recent sharp falls against other leading currencies. Since January the dollar has tumbled from DM 2.84 against the Deutsche mark and also fallen sharply against the Japanese yen. Dealers said a rebound was to be expected after such a rapid fall.

Fanning the dollar's strength was yesterday's prediction from Mr Martin Feldstein, Chief Presidential Economic Adviser, that first-quarter growth in the US economy would exceed 6 per cent at an annual rate. The trend was also helped by the recent remarks of Mr Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Board chairman, over the dangers of the budget deficit.

However, some dealers were certain that this had not prompted any fundamental reassessment of the currency.



Martin Feldstein: growth to exceed 6 per cent

"They could have said exactly the same thing last week and the dollar would have gone the other way," one said yesterday.

The dollar closed yesterday up 3.25 pence at DM 2.5885, having touched DM 2.59 at one stage. On its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies it gained 0.8 to 125.4.

much of yesterday. It lost ground against the dollar closing 1.3 cents lower at \$1.4580 and its trade-weighted value fell 0.3 to 81.1. However, it finished unchanged against the Deutsche mark at DM 3.7750.

There was still no firm indication yesterday of how the other big banks would respond to the 0.25 per cent cut in base rate to 8.75 per cent announced by Barclays Bank earlier this week and since followed by the Bank of Scotland.

Midland Bank was still considering its position yesterday, according to Mr Geoffrey Taylor, chief executive. "As we see it now, there does not appear to be any justification for a downward movement." However he said that conditions could change daily.

There is still speculation that other banks may opt for a 0.5 per cent cut in 8.5 per cent but perhaps not until after the Budget next Tuesday.

Despite sterling's recent weakness, brought on by the downward movement in interest rates, there has been no sign at all of the Bank of England coming into the markets to steady its path.



John Lewis Partnership plc department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Consolidated Results* for the year ended 28 January 1984

	1983/84 £m	1982/83 £m
Sales	1072.1	922.2
Trading Profit	70.8	50.6
Interest	4.2	6.0
Pension Fund Contributions	7.7	5.8
Taxation	8.5	5.0
Preference Dividends	0.4	0.4
Surplus available for profit sharing and retentions	50.0	33.4
Partnership Bonus	25.4	17.1
Retentions	24.6	16.3

*Abridged, estimated and unaudited.

Sales increased by 16% to £1072 million. Department store sales rose by 14% to £572 million and sales in Waitrose supermarkets by 18% to £488 million.

Trading Profit increased by 40% to a record figure of £71 million.

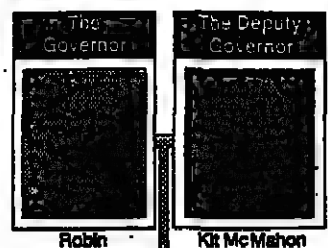
Surplus: the amount available for profit sharing and retentions rose by £16 1/2 million (50%) to £50 million. Retained profits were increased by £8 million (51%) to £24 1/2 million.

Profit Sharing increased by £8 million (49%) to £25 million. All the equity capital of John Lewis Partnership plc is held in trust for the benefit of the workers in the business. The profits remaining after taxation, preference dividends, pensions and allocations to reserves are distributed yearly among the workers as Partnership Bonus in proportion to their pay. This year the rate of distribution will be 21% of pay (1982/83 16%).

For further details please telephone 01-637 3434 ext 6221 or write to Chief Information Officer, 4 Old Cavendish Street, London W1A 1EX.

The brave new world of Leigh-Pemberton faces first real test of its authority

Sarah Hogg reports on how the Bank of England is adjusting to the winds of change in the Square Mile



Who's who in the Court of Threadneedle Street: The Governor and his deputy head a line-up of directors that includes a new generation of 'home-grown' policy-makers - the Bank's young men in the City

"I'm told I'm going to make a very important speech," the Governor of the Bank of England said to me last week, continuing his polished performance as the genial amateur. He was quite right. On Tuesday, the Bank laid out its design for living in the City of the future: one in which single capacity will have followed fixed commissions into the Stock Exchange graveyard, corporate membership will be clearly established and financial conglomerates are rising on the skyline. What is more, the future is - in the Bank's view - close at hand. The City must move fast to catch international competition.

While Britain's bankers, brokers and jobbers brace themselves against the winds of change, the Bank of England has to take place within the Bank. Professor Brian Griffiths, at 41 the youngest member of the Court of the Bank of England (and harking in his distinction as the first academic to be appointed a non-executive director since John Maynard Keynes), sees the one development as the natural reflection of the other.

"As the traditional way of doing things comes under challenge in all the City institutions, so change and greater openness are the proper reactions at the Bank."

But how is the Bank really changing? One shift is obvious: its top jobs are filled today with a new generation of policy-makers. The executive directors are all home-grown Bank men (though one of them, Mr David Walker, began life in the Treasury); but they are relatively young and fresh

Two of the Bank's grandees - Mr Christopher Dow and Mr John Forde - retired at the end of February. And in the Governor's chair, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's relaxed, open style is very different from his predecessor's.

Views, naturally, differ as to how much change is for the better. There are stories of how the Bank's internationally-respected deputy governor, Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, and the Bank's shrewd monetary expert, executive director Mr Eddie George, have to steer their cheerful new boss round public pitfalls.

But Mr Leigh-Pemberton possesses one immense advantage, and seems to have the confidence to make use of it. He is Mrs Thatcher's chosen appointee, and therefore, more secure in his relations with Downing Street - the inhabitants of both Number 10 and Number 11 - than his predecessor ever was.

Though Mr Leigh-Pemberton is Mrs Thatcher's man, he does not seem to be making the Bank

her creature. On occasion, indeed, quite the reverse: at meetings of the National Economic Development Council, it is said by rueful Treasury men that he has been striking a line remarkably independent of Whitehall's.

How much this reflects his own views, and how much those of the Bank's young Turks, is a matter on which his listeners are not yet clear; but here, too, there is a welcome loosening-up in Bank practices. In Lord Richardson's day, all the collective wisdom of the Bank had to be squeezed upwards, like toothpaste, to the single outlet of the Governor's rare public speeches.

A formidable drafting and redrafting process, in which the Governor was deeply involved, occupied a tremendous number of high-quality man-hours. Even those who most admired Lord Richardson's intellectual distinction will sometimes admit to breathing more freely in the easier atmosphere created by his successor.

Some of the tension, and better still the paperwork, is

said to be disappearing under Mr Leigh-Pemberton's rule.

Of course there are critics. Not everyone in the Bank gets his chance to polish every word the Governor utters before he says it. The corresponding advantage is Mr Leigh-Pemberton's pleasant readiness to act more as chairman of a board of directors able to think and even occasionally speak for themselves.

The culmination of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's chosen role of the plain man's Governor - or at least the plain clearing bankers - is his way of dealing with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. The Chancellor, to explain himself - a neat reversal of the normal relationship between permanent official and politician.

Different styles are born of

different problems. Lord Richardson's government covered a period of exchange rate crisis, when every word uttered by the Bank could have disastrous effect on the currency markets. Then came a phase of miserable disagreement with a green Thatcher Government, ready to blame the Bank for the failures of its naive early monetary policies.

The monetary argument was the major preoccupation of Lord Richardson's last four years, with two debt crises as side-shows. British industry's troubles in 1979-81, and the international banking crisis of 1982-84.

Now the Bank's preoccupations have changed as clearly as its personnel. There has been no pitched battle between the Treasury and the Bank over the new medium-term financial strategy Mr Lawson will reveal on Budget day; the issue has been resolved by a compromise almost wholly satisfactory to the Bank.

With two target ranges for even more different measures of monetary growth, the new strategy will permit the kind of flexibility the Bank likes, and was denied in the 1980 strategy. British industry's loan problems have eased with the recovery in profits and demand. And the Bank believes that the immediate phase of the international debt crisis is over (its expert fire-fighter, Mr Brian Quinn, has now been partially redirected towards domestic banking issues).

The Bank can never rule the line below any of its responsibilities. It is possible, for example, that the first test of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's ability to deal with the changing pattern of exchange rates this year.

There is greater, though far

from uncritical enthusiasm for such attempts to stabilize exchange rates as the European Monetary System in Threadneedle Street than there ever has been in Great George Street. But there is no sign of heat in the issue of exchange rates. The Bank's real test of authority could come in its relationship with quite a different department of government.

Changes in the City - and in the securities market in particular - are inevitably bringing the Bank into much closer contact, and potential conflict, with the Department of Trade and Industry. This is much less familiar departmental territory for the Bank (though the two chief protagonists, Mr David Walker of the Bank, and Sir Anthony Rawlinson, permanent secretary of the relevant half of the DTI, worked together in their Treasury days).

'The plain man's' governor is quite prepared to ask the Chancellor to explain himself'

The delicate issue of overlapping regulation, as financial institutions diversify, is one example of Tom Tiddler's ground between the two. But the wider issues of competition policy and the promotion of British interests in the securities business, on which the politicians have their views, will involve the Bank in some tricky negotiations.

The "catalyst" role it has chosen means it must do more than interpret Whitehall to the City, and the City to Whitehall. It means managing both ends with considerable tactical skill.

APPOINTMENTS

Deputy chairman named by Babcock

Babcock International: Sir Frank Cooper has been appointed deputy chairman of the board.

The London Metal Exchange: Mr M. J. Beale, managing director of Amalgamated Metal Trading, and Mr P. J. Jevons have joined the board. Mr P. G. Smith will retire from the chairmanship on May 22. He will be succeeded by Mr J. K. Lion, senior partner of Philip & Lion, with Mr R. D. Gee, a director of BICC Cables, as vice-chairman.

East Midlands Allied Press: Mr P. J. D. Cooke has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Crouch Construction: Mr Leslie Andrews has been made managing director. Mr Peter Meyer, chairman of the Crouch Group, has become chairman of Crouch Construction.

The National Westminster Bank of Canada: Mr Doug Wilson has been seconded to the bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, as vice-president and manager of Calgary marketing office, in Alberta. He succeeds Mr Colin Comery who will be returning to Britain on completion of his tour of duty.

City & Northern: Mr John Bell has become chairman, Mr Elliott Ward, chief executive, and Mr Chris Dixon and Mr Roger Broadhurst become directors.

Cannon and Company: Mr Kenneth Terry has been appointed manufacturing director. Balfour Beatty Construction: Mr Derrick Wilk is appointed a director. Mr John Dean, a director of Balfour Beatty Construction, becomes a director and chairman of Stewart McGlashen, chairman of Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland), chairman of Raynesway Construction Services and a director of Balfour Beatty



Sir Frank Cooper: deputy chairman at Babcock

Homes. Mr H. Turnbull becomes a director of Stewart McGlashen. Mr John Dean, Mr Roger Stagg, Mr Anthony Merricks and Mr Roger Hacker are appointed directors of Stent Foundations.

Swan National: Mr Don McCrickard, managing director of United Dominions Trust, has become chairman.

Chemical Bank: Mr William Clark has been made head of the energy and minerals group on London, covering Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Mr Clark takes over from Mr Uwe Jahnke.

New Ideal Developments: Mr Stuart G. Ely has become a director. He will continue with his existing responsibilities as managing director of Builders Amalgamated.

Greenwood Development Holdings: Mr Wyndham Thomas has become a member of the board.

Cable & Wireless UK Services: Mr Christopher Ash-Edwards has become financial controller and Mr Michael Anas has become Telecoms product manager.

Systems Designers up 46%

By Andrew Cornelius

Systems Designers International, the fast-growing computer consultancy which came to the stock market 16 months ago, maintained its five-year record of 45 per cent year-on-year profits growth during 1983. Group pretax profits increased by 46 per cent to £1.53m on turnover which grew by 47 per cent to £13.95m compared with the previous year.

At the same time SDI was able to recruit 125 highly skilled computer staff, partly because of the interest created by the stock market flotation. To take the total numbers employed to 425 people.

Mr Philip Swinstead, the chairman, who made a paper fortune when the company came to the market, said that prospects for SDI were "tremendously exciting."

Plans for the current year include possible acquisition of a computer company to help

build on SDI's \$1m a year turnover in the United States. The aim would be to increase market coverage there by taking over a company with access for and contacts in the US communications industry.

"We want to add our skills and expertise to a company which has links with big businesses in the US," Mr Swinstead said. There were also plans to market SDI's software products abroad and to strengthen marketing connections in the rest of Europe.

And although SDI can pay for the rapid growth of its existing businesses from the funds it generates itself, any acquisition is likely to be financed by a rights issue of the company's shares which stand at an impressive 593p on the London stock market, against the 310p placing price in 1982.

Income from consultancy fees during 1983 rose from £7.6m to £10.7m compared with the previous year. Software

products generated £1m (£600,000), and hardware sales £2.2m (£1.2m).

Defence contracts still account for about 45 per cent of total revenue, with the bulk of the work coming from the Ministry of Defence. However, an important breakthrough in supplying the Swiss defence ministry could help the group expand its defence contracts outside Britain.

During the year SDI won contracts for its Videotex systems from Britain, West Germany, Austria and Hong Kong.

Group administration costs increased by 38 per cent to £4.1m as SDI expanded its businesses to meet the growth in turnover. Research and development expenditure was maintained at 10 per cent of turnover.

The board is recommending payment of a final dividend of 1.6p per share, making 2.4p for the year, against 1.5p last time.

First-half profits dip at Galliford

Galliford, a Leicestershire-based industrial holding company, pushed up turnover from £33.18m to £34.92m in the half-year to December 31, but pretax profits fell from £1.37m to £1.11m. The board calls the result disappointing and blames it largely on losses in a civil engineering contract and a negligible contribution from the Singapore offshoot.

Galliford's precision engineering companies continued to trade at a loss. But the situation is already much better and there is an improvement in orders.

An unchanged interim dividend of 0.7p net a share is being paid. Civil engineering as a whole has been a concern to the board for the last year or so slow volume and minimal margins are still with the company. Galliford and Sons made substantial losses on one contract, work is now virtually complete.

Overall, the second half-year is expected to be better than the first - but it is doubtful that all the lost ground can be regained.

In brief

● **FIFE INDMAR** (engineer): Results for 1983 figures in £000. Turnover 12,762 (12,209). Pretax profits 703 (729). Total dividend, net, 6.6p (6.3p).

● **MILLS & ALLEN GROUP**: Butler Harlow (Financial Futures) - part of the Mills & Allen Group - and Sheppard & Chase have entered into an informal arrangement to jointly market the contracts of LIFFE.

● **COMFORT HOTELS INTERNATIONAL**: Negotiations have been finalized to acquire a controlling interest in the Hotel Sainte-Anne, Rue Sainte-Anne, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris.

● **FAMILY INVESTMENT TRUST**: Year to Jan 31, 1984. Total gross revenue £492,000 (£448,000). Total net dividend up from 6.3p to 6.6p a share.

● **PARINGA MINING & EXPLORATION**: Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 884 (670). Pretax profit 213 (94).

● **MICROFILM REPROGRAPHICS**: Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Turnover £849,000 (£641,000). Pretax profit £102,000 (loss, £110,000). Tax nil (same). Profits for second half likely to top those of first, board reports. Interim dividend cut from 1.25p to 0.5p net a share to conserve cash for expansion and development. Company has a USM quotation.

● **WILLIAM SINCLAIR HOLDINGS**: In the half-year to Dec 31, 1983, William Sinclair, the plant breeder and seed specialist which has a USM quotation, more than halved its pretax loss to £181,000 compared with a loss of £420,000 last time. This was achieved on a turnover greatly reduced, from £15.85m to £10.03m. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p net a share.

● **IMPERIAL METALS** (London 163 and Vancouver): Imperial Metals has bought from Sulpetro a 24 per cent interest in Peepay Unit No 3, British Columbia, as well as a 25 per cent and a 35 per cent interest respectively in two Big Lake area wells in Alberta for Can. \$4.85m (£2.6m). Imperial's net share of revenue from the acquisition will be about Can. \$1m in 1984. Imperial and its associate, Geomex Partnerships, have also agreed to buy Sulpetro's interest in the St Albert Pooled Oil Unit in Alberta for Can. \$1.94m.

● **CORTON BEACH (HOLDINGS)**: Corton Beach reports that on March 2, Mr Frank Stansil, liquidator of Mesco Nominees, and chairman of the company, disposed of his entire holding of 1.28 million ordinary shares at 4.1p per share; £47,697 of these shares (29.99 per cent of the issued capital) have been acquired by Mr Michael Keen and the balance placed by Marsden W. Hargreave, Hale and Co. with investment clients. The Bargain has been effected under Rule 16(2) and a general offer to the other shareholders will not be required by the Takeover Panel.

● **RIGHTS AND ISSUES INVESTMENT TRUST**: Total dividend for 1983 on trust's income shares unchanged at 3.8p net a share. Consolidated gross income: £235,000 (£267,000).

About £100,000 of the losses within the electronic division was the result of a three-week industrial dispute in November. However, sales by the division increased by 12 per cent and the improvement is continuing, according to the board.

● **COLE GROUP**: Robert Moss has bought 100,000 ordinary shares in the Cole Group, increasing its holding to 242,500 shares (8.08 per cent).

● **THE JAPANESE** ministry of transport has revised its car import system to simplify foreign application procedures. The director of the engineering division of the Road Transport Bureau at the ministry, Mr Masatoshi Matsunami, said. He added that the new system would cut costs and red tape.

● **SOUTH KOREA'S** industrial production index rose to a provisional and seasonally adjusted 146.1 in January, up 2.0 per cent from December and up 15.4 per cent from a year earlier, the economic planning board said.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

† Yearly deposits on basis of 12 months, then 24 months and 36 months.

Cadbury Schweppes

1983 PROFIT UP 19% TO £107m

	1983 £m	1982 £m	% Change
Group sales	1,702.8	1,494.2	+14.0
Trading profit	125.6	104.8	+19.8
Group profit before tax	106.9	89.7	+19.2
Dividends	24.2	21.9	+10.5
Earnings per share (not basis)	13.60p	10.98p	+23.9

1983 was a year of progress, when we built successfully on the changed geographical balance of the business, to which we have been working over the last few years.

All regions improved their return on operating assets.

The board is recommending a final dividend of 3.90p per unit (1982: 3.50p), giving a total for the year of 5.40p (4.90p).

North America's trading profit rose 37%, tripling its profit over the last three years. It remains the fastest growing region and is broadly enough based to meet its growth targets through further investment in its existing activities.

Australia, where trading profit was up by 36%, has also shown a consistently high rate of growth which is a considerable achievement in a highly competitive market.

With the benefit of the company's investment programme coming

through, the United Kingdom's trading profit increased by 11%. Sales and market share achievements in the region were encouraging and this was broadly the picture for the rest of Europe.

Companies outside the main regions played their full part in the improvement in the Group results.

During 1983 there were encouraging signs of trade picking up around the world and of business confidence returning. The company is well-placed to take advantage of the opportunities for growth through its geographical spread and the strength of its international brands.

Challenging objectives have been set for 1984 and I am confident that the year will prove to be one of further achievement.

Adrian Cadbury
Chairman

SALES AND TRADING PROFIT BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

	Sales		Trading profit	
	1983 £m	1982 £m	1983 £m	1982 £m
United Kingdom	823.9	771.7	57.3	51.5
Europe	196.2	172.6	10.6	9.4
America	374.8	279.6	28.9	19.6
Australia	188.7	166.3	17.5	12.9
Other overseas	119.2	104.0	13.3	11.4
	1,702.8	1,494.2	125.6	104.8



Copies of the Annual Report will be sent to all shareholders. Further copies will be available from the Secretary.

Cadbury Schweppes p.l.c., Leconfield House, Curzon Street, London W1Y 7FB

Switchback seeks a paying ride

هكذا امت الأهل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 00 **Ceefax** AM: News and information, available to all viewers whatever TV set you own.
- 30 **Breakfast Time**: With Frank Bough, Fern Britton. Today's special items include gardening and pop news (both between 7.30 and 7.45) and food and cooking (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include news (6.30, then half-hourly until 8.30), sport (6.40, 7.40), regional news (6.45 and then half-hourly until 8.15), TV Choice (6.55). Morning papers (7.15 and 8.15), and Russell Grant's horoscope item (8.35).
- 90 **Food and Drink**: Includes a report on an Englishman whose French wines are now selling well over the world (7). 9.30 Pages from Ceefax.
- 30 **School**: The story of Steve the Sleepwalker; 10.55 Play Ideas; 11.05 More pages from Ceefax.
- 30 **News After Noon**: 12.57 Financial Report. And subtitled news headlines. 1.00 Pebble MIM at One: Music and conversation in the foyer. Seabrook's regular gardening spot; 1.45 Bagpuss; 2.05 A Week with the Whips: A film about one of the busiest men in Yorkshire - Michael Elson, town clerk of Calderdale (1). 2.15 **The Silver Cord** (1933). Film of Sidney Howard's stage play about a mother's obsessive love for her two sons. She tries to break up the marriage of one of them, and prevent the marriage of the other. With Laura Hope Crews (as the mother), Irene Dunne and John Cromwell. Directed by Joel Crawford.
- 50 **Magic Roundabout** (1): 3.55 Play School; 4.20 **Cartoon**: 4.25 **Hardy**: also, only a cartoon; 4.25 **Jackanory**: Robert Lundy reads from Joan Aiken's *The Kitchen Warrors*; 4.40 **Captain Zep**: Space Detective: First of six episodes, now starring Richard Morant in the title role. 5.10 **The Secret of Steel City**: Three-part adventure yarn (this is part one) from the pen of Jules Verne. The story-teller is James Laurenson (1). 5.35 **The Wombles**.
- 40 **Sixty Minutes**: The line-up is: 5.40 news; 5.45 weather; 5.55 regional magazines; 6.30 closing headlines. The news reader is Jan Leeming.
- 40 **Doctor Who**: Episode two of *The Caves of Androzani*. With Peter Davison.
- 50 **International Superstars**: From New Zealand. Representing Britain are Brian Hooper, David Hemery.
- 5 **Sharon and Elsie**: Sharon (Janet Beverley) wrongly assumes that the world can be her oyster.
- 5 **We Got It Made**: US comedy series, involving a pair of mink underpants. Matt McCoy and Teri Copley.
- 10 **News**: with Sue Lawley.
- 5 **Remington Steele**: A dead body is discovered in a vineyard vat.
- 5 **The Further Adventures of Lucky Jim**: with Enn Reitel as Kingsley Ainslie's hero (1).
- 15 **News Headlines**.
- 5 **Film**: *Darling* (1965). Aristocratic written drama (by Frederick Raphael) about glossy society in the 1950s, with Julie Christie as the model and socialite on the make (the role brought her an Oscar). Also starring Dirk Bogarde (TV personality). Laurence Harvey (company executive), with Robert Curran and Alex Scott. Directed by John Schlesinger. Ends at 1.00 am.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain**: with John Stapleton and Anne Diamond. Today's special items include Friday Postbag (with John Stapleton) at 7.50, Fantasy Time (8.10), Weekend television preview (8.35). Regular items include news (6.30, then half-hourly until 9.00), sport (6.35 and 7.35), Mad Lizzie (6.30 and 9.15), John Stapleton's Spotlight (7.20) and Guest of the Day. Johnny Ray at 7.40.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**: 9.30 For Schools; Feeding: 9.47 How We Used to Live; 10.09 Treasure Hunt; 10.25 Looking for a Job; 10.43 Alternative to unemployment; 11.05 Mims; 11.22 Puppet opera: The Bricklayers Built a Crooked Chimney; 11.39 Tiger at the Gate (history in action).
- 12.00 **Family and the Magic Torch**: 12.10 by Rainwater: two for the young; 12.15 Lifeskills: How to be a social winner. Negotiating techniques in industrial disputes; 12.25 **News**: 1.20 **Thames news**: 1.30 **Thames news**: Leader of the Pack: How drugs and surgery are used in ending and showjumping. Just Out Loud: Comedy series about a man and his gene. Today: the unlikely scabb from the king's tomb; 2.30 **Falcon Crest**: Angela's Aunt: Langtry who has some bad news for Maggie about her husband. With Jane Wymann; 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**: Australian drama series.
- 4.00 **Children's TV**: with Roland Rat; 4.10 **Cartoon**: 4.25 **Hardy**: also, only a cartoon; 4.25 **Jackanory**: Robert Lundy reads from Joan Aiken's *The Kitchen Warrors*; 4.40 **Captain Zep**: Space Detective: First of six episodes, now starring Richard Morant in the title role. 5.10 **The Secret of Steel City**: Three-part adventure yarn (this is part one) from the pen of Jules Verne. The story-teller is James Laurenson (1). 5.35 **The Wombles**.
- 5.45 **News**: 6.00 **The 6 O'Clock Show**: with Michael Aspel. 7.00 **The Zodiac Game**: Game show, with guest stars Harry Fowler, Nicholas Parsons, Lynsey de Paul and Nynne Dwan Porter.
- 7.30 **Hardcastle and McCormick**: The return of the crime series which features the unlikely partnership of a retired judge (Brian Keith) and a former jailbird (Daniel Hugh-Kelly).
- 8.30 **The Observer's Ark**: Comedy with John Standing as the jobless politician and Lorraine Chase as his cockney wife.
- 9.00 **Shroud for a Nightingale**: Chief Supt Adam Dalgleish (Roy Marsden) returns in a TV adaptation of P. D. James' novel about dirty work at a hospital. With Joss Ackland, Sheila Allen, Liz Fraser and Thelma Whitley (see Choice).
- 10.00 **News at Ten**.
- 10.30 **The London Programme**: An analysis of the Greater London Enterprise Board, set up by the GLC to help rescue failing London firms or to create new jobs. Its conclusion: the board is part of a dream of revolutionising the way Londoners are earning their living.
- 11.00 **Boon**: Buddhist hospital comedy.
- 11.30 **South of Watford**: A profile of film-maker, painter and designer Derek Jarman (his films include *The Tempest*, *Jubilee* and *Sebastien*).
- 12.00 **Bizarre**: Comedy series, starring Jack Byrner.
- 12.30 **Jack Webb**: with Sgt Joe Friday. Followed by *Baroness* Lane-Fox's *Night Thoughts*.



Shroud for a Nightingale (TV, 9.00pm)

BBC 2

- 6.05 **Open University** (until 8.10): 9.00 Pages from Ceefax; 9.05 **Daytime on Two** (until 2.50). The line-up is: 9.05 **Electromagnetic Spectrum**; 9.35 **Plum Crazy** (9); 9.52 **The Boy from Space** (7); 10.15 **Graphic Race** (7); 10.38 **Parliament**: 11.00 **Textures** and patterns; 11.22 **Iron and Steel Industry**; 11.40 **Going to Work**; 12.05 **Making the Most of the Micro**; 12.30 **Computers in Context**; 12.55 **Speak for Yourself**.
- 1.20 **Pages from Ceefax**; 1.35 **News**; 1.40 **Another chance to see Leslie Steward's play**, *Wide Gables*, about an Army-run survival course for teenagers; 2.30 **Farrukh Dhondy** plays *My Uncle*; 2.50 **Ceefax**.
- 5.05 **Weekend Outlook**: Trailer for TV programmes; 5.10 **Language Development**: Open University film about speech inflections; 5.15 **News**; 5.30 **News**; 5.45 **News**; 5.55 **News**; 6.00 **News**; 6.15 **News**; 6.30 **News**; 6.45 **News**; 6.55 **News**; 7.00 **News**; 7.15 **News**; 7.30 **News**; 7.45 **News**; 7.55 **News**; 8.00 **News**; 8.15 **News**; 8.30 **News**; 8.45 **News**; 8.55 **News**; 9.00 **News**; 9.15 **News**; 9.30 **News**; 9.45 **News**; 9.55 **News**; 10.00 **News**; 10.15 **News**; 10.30 **News**; 10.45 **News**; 10.55 **News**; 11.00 **News**; 11.15 **News**; 11.30 **News**; 11.45 **News**; 11.55 **News**; 12.00 **News**; 12.15 **News**; 12.30 **News**; 12.45 **News**; 12.55 **News**; 1.00 **News**; 1.15 **News**; 1.30 **News**; 1.45 **News**; 1.55 **News**; 2.00 **News**; 2.15 **News**; 2.30 **News**; 2.45 **News**; 2.55 **News**; 3.00 **News**; 3.15 **News**; 3.30 **News**; 3.45 **News**; 3.55 **News**; 4.00 **News**; 4.15 **News**; 4.30 **News**; 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